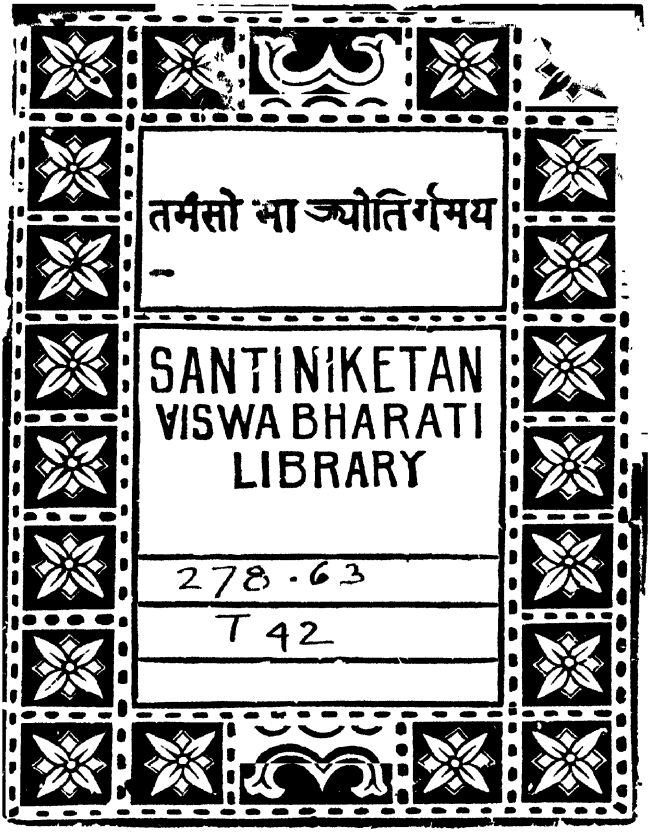
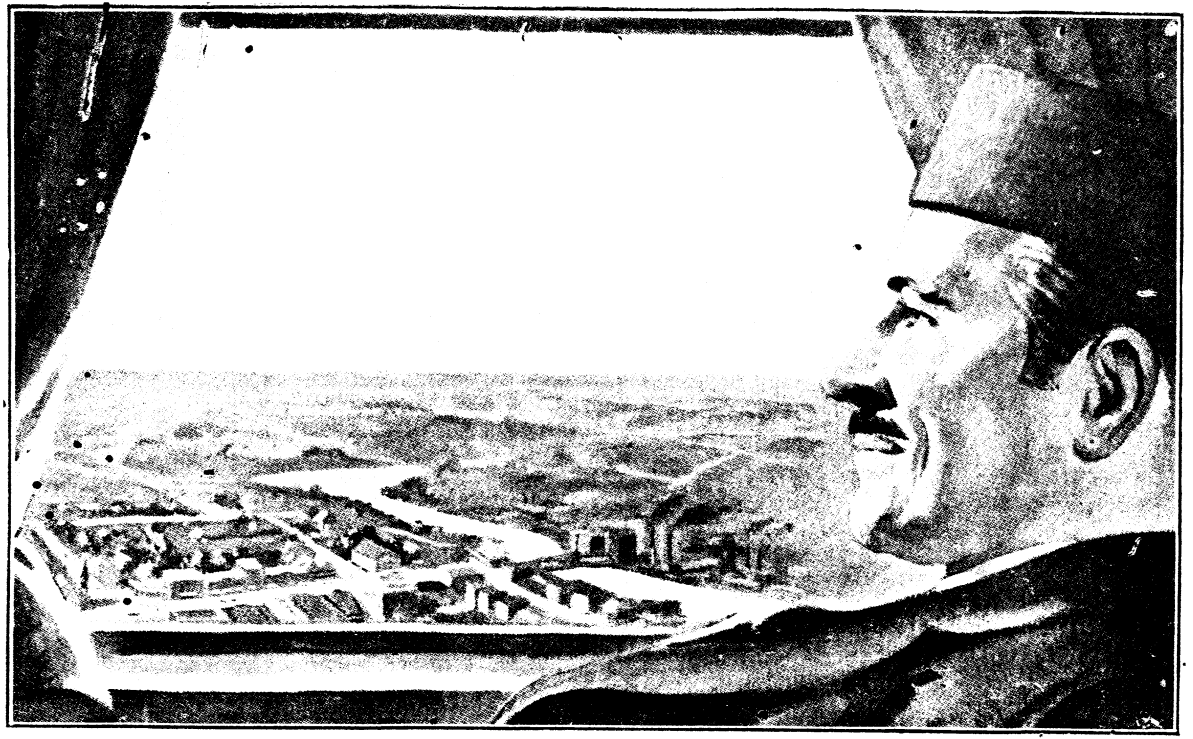

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TOWARD
A
BETTER DAY



We live in an age of wonders in invention—and blunders in morals.

TOWARD
A
BETTER DAY

By

Robert Bruce Thurber

* * * *

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Representatives of India in London. India is to have a great part in events to come.



There is a book of sacred writings which reveals the future of the world and of mankind.

Our Turbulent Times—and the Answer

TO BE alive today is to be greatly stirred by what we see about us. Bewildering events occur rapidly. Progress plunges headlong. Numerous dangers threaten our peace. Taking counsel with our fears, we ask, What do these things mean? What next, and how shall we prepare for it?

The cynic says, It has always been thus. But we know better. If history teaches anything at all, it shows that there never was an age like this. Baffling problems confront us. We have been distressed with some of them be-

fore, but they loom larger and more numerous now, and we are not only distressed but perplexed.

We have huge surpluses of life's necessities, yet millions are unemployed and starving. The great majority want peace, yet war comes in spite of us. Moral standards have been let down, crime rages, and life is unsafe. Suicide, insanity, intoxication, gambling, wild manias, sweep multitudes off their feet; yet efforts to improve conditions do not stem the awful tide. What is the matter with the world?

An Answer Available

This book is not just another commentary on the times. It will not explore, deplore, and implore, and leave the reader dangling in uncertainty. It proposes to give the only satisfactory answer to these distracting problems which trouble the minds of the best men of today. Claiming no special wisdom of our own, we find this answer by referring to an authority.

This authority deserves the careful attention of every man, whatever his religion. It is a book, two-thirds of the contents of which were written many centuries before our present "Christian era." While it is one of the oldest of books, it is also pre-eminently a modern book; for it is prophetic, and has startling applications to conditions today.

The Book bases its claim to attention upon the fact that it is the word of God, who is able to foretell the future, and every one of whose prophecies has been accurately fulfilled. To pursue a study of these remarkable prophecies and their amazing fulfilments is, to say the least, interesting and even fascinating. To such a study we invite the reader. We are confident that a student of these forecasts will not be disappointed in his findings.

Plain and Symbolic Language

Many of these forecasts are written in plain language; others appear in the language of symbols. As it is today, so in olden times symbolic representations as vehicles of thought were quite common. Thought expressed by signs or pictures is the most universal language known, and the most expressive and impressive. Today the British Empire is symbolized by a lion, "The British Lion." Russia is represented by a bear, "the bear that walks like a man." China is represented by a dragon; and Japan, "the Sunrise Kingdom," by a sunburst. These symbols, and many others, are common in our times, and an allusion to them in written or oral communication immediately and easily conveys their meaning to the mind.

In reality, all written language was once a series of symbols, or pictures. Many of the word signs of the Chinese language are still so, "letters" naming animals looking like pictures of those animals. The alphabetical letters of our languages today originated in crude drawings of natural objects.

Anciently, images of men, animals, and birds were used to represent nations, tribes, religions, and gods. There was the Roman eagle; and the Romans spoke of themselves as the children of the wolf. There was the beetle and the bull in Egypt, symbols well known to the historian. Sometimes parts of men and beasts were put together to form a symbol. The winged bull with a man's head is an example. This representation was common in ancient Assyria, and is used by the Parsis today. Its impressive profile may be seen in front of their temple in Hornby Road, Bombay.

Why Symbols?

Why are symbols used, instead of literal language, to convey messages to men? Not in order that every man might put his own interpretation upon them, but because simple symbols are more easily understood, are world-wide in scope, and are more enduring. Pictures are exact, are understood everywhere, and last on and on. They mean the same to everyone. Through all time, in every clime, and to the merest child, a lion has stood for majesty, strength, and, when rampant, violence; and the bullock has stood for docility, patience, and toil. Thus the use of symbols at once appeals to the mind of the unlearned and pays a compliment to the intelligence of the learned.

Prophecy Reveals the True God

God challenges other professed prophets to a test on prophetic accuracy, and stakes His reputation with men on His ability to foresee events thousands of years ahead.[1] Only He knows the end from the beginning, and has revealed it to men. We will find in His forecasts light for the darkness of our day. We will study the past to find enlightenment for the present, and for the future.

1 "I am God,...and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done." Isaiah 46:9, 10.

Note: All references, such as the above, are taken from the books of the Christian Bible, unless otherwise stated.



A sinister force has sought through all the past to direct the course of history; but a divine Providence has over-ruled.

The World's History in Four Sentences

TWENTY-FIVE centuries ago, the empire of Babylon, in Western Asia, ruled the then-known world. Its king, Nebuchadnezzar, at the pinnacle of power, was not satisfied, however. He wanted to know the future of his empire. One night while he was thinking about it he fell asleep and dreamed a strange dream. [1]

When he awoke, he could not remember what he had dreamed; yet he was deeply impressed that it had to do with the future of his kingdom. He called in his wise men, his fortune-tellers, and his astrologers to tell him the dream and its meaning. But they failed. Finally he found a prophet of God, Daniel, who had wisdom in visions and dreams, and who told him what he had dreamed and the



The great image of the king's dream.

meaning of it. He said that God sent the dream to the king that he might know "what shall come to pass hereafter," also "what shall be in the latter days."

THE STRANGE DREAM

"Thou, O king, sawest," said Daniel, "and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

"Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing-floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth."

Thus, in just four statements, is portrayed the whole history of the world from the day Daniel spoke them down through the ages, past our own day, and on to the end of time.

The king immediately recognized the dream. This young seer had told him in detail something that he was sure had been only in his own mind, and had slipped away. He was a worshipper of images, but he was astounded at his vision of this peculiar metallic statue and what became of it. He was prepared to believe that the man who could recall it for him was able also to tell what it meant. Daniel continued:

"Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and

glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath He given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold."

With the king, we get a clue to the significance of the vision. The "revealer of secrets" was giving in symbol an outline of world history from Nebuchadnezzar's day to ours. We, as well as he, are consumed with curiosity. Did the prophet state facts? We have the advantage over the king, for we live centuries later and can now read history and know that every statement which Daniel made was true.

The Head of Gold

Precious, shining gold well represented Babylon, "the glory of kingdoms."[2] All who saw it were lavish in praise of its beauty, greatness, and wealth. And it had reached its "golden age" under Nebuchadnezzar. "Is not this great Babylon that I have built?"[3] was his proud boast. The walls, the moat, the gates, the palaces, the hanging gardens, the temples, the statuary, the streets, of ancient Babylon city, capital of world empire, far surpassed any city before or since. The art and culture of the age were there. Nebuchadnezzar's dominion was unlimited, his army invincible, his capital impregnable; surely his dominion would last forever. Was it not represented by the head, the seat of bodily intelligence and control; and by gold, the most precious of all metals? But no—

The Breast and Arms of Silver

"After thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee," added the prophet. As the breast and arms are inferior to the head, yet stronger; and as silver is less bril-

liant and valuable than gold, yet more durable; so the next empire was to conquer Babylon, though it was inferior to it in some respects.

Looking forward to the future from Daniel's time, we now know from history that, following Babylon, the empire of the united Medes and Persians ruled the world. Darius and Cyrus and Xerxes were the renowned monarchs who shone in this dynasty; and their names live today. But finally they, too, went down in defeat before a third world power.

The Sides of Brass

Again taking up the sweep of what was to come, Daniel predicted, "And another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth." The symbolic prophecy now reaches a part of the body less honourable but stronger yet, and to a metal less precious but harder.

Following close after Medo-Persia, which had extended its dominions farther than those of Babylon, came the third empire, that of Grecia, with Alexander the Great as its towering personality. It stretched to the confines of the then-known world, the great conqueror invading even northwest India.

The Legs of Iron

Then a fourth universal empire came upon the stage of action, and it was the mightiest and most destructive of all. The unerring prophet thus describes it:

"The fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise."

That fourth great empire, as history shows, was "the iron monarchy of Rome,"[4] as the English historian Gibbon calls it. Much more powerful and ruthless than any before it, the Roman nation crushed all opposition and ruled from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean, and from Africa to the Arctic. It was said that the world was a "safe and dreary prison" for its enemies.

Iron and Clay

The seer of Divinity next came to a strange part of the image, which required more detailed explanation; and since the fulfilment of it comes even to our own times, we are more intensely interested. He said: "Whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

"And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay."

The nation that was the legs was to be divided into strong (iron) parts and weak (clay) parts, represented by the strangely aggregated feet and toes. Clay is used for moulding iron, since it will not mix with even molten iron.

So it was. The mighty empire of Rome, after dominating the whole world for many centuries, finally fell in A.D. 476, and was divided into many parts by the small nations that came surging over its territory from every side. The dismembered empire was "divided" by nations, some

of which now constitute the ruling powers of Western and Southern Europe—Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland. As may be seen, some of these are strong, and some are weak; and they are quite separate. From Roman times to our own day there has been no universal empire, exactly as the prophet said.

A World State Impossible

The forecast was that these nations which displaced Rome would not be satisfied to be "divided," but would try to be again united, yet would never succeed. They have mingled "themselves with the seed of men": that is, they have endeavoured to unite by intermarriage of rulers. Not long ago nearly all the crowned heads of Europe were blood relatives, and some of them still are; but the plan has not worked, and European nations today are more disunited than ever before in history.

Statesmanship has also failed to bring again a universal empire. The Muslim Arabs, Charlemagne, Charles V, Napoleon, Kaiser Wilhelm—all dreamed of a united Europe, but in vain. An attempt has been made to unite the world under the League of Nations, but it has come to naught. Several nations today aspire to world control under one dictator. Can they succeed? Never!

A very remarkable feature of Daniel's prophecy is that he said there would be four universal empires, and *only four.* These four came within a period of four centuries, from the sixth to the second centuries before Christ. So they averaged a century apiece. If the seer had been consulting the "philosophy of history," and had been logically following the law of averages, he would have predicted twenty more universal empires during the next twenty centuries after Rome fell, or at least one on the average of

every two or three hundred years. But he predicted *none at all.* And so it has been. How did he know? Surely he was gifted with more than human vision of the future. The proverb that "history repeats itself" was successfully flouted by the prophecy.

God Succeeds Where Man Fails

We have now reached the climax and close of this great forecast. Eloquently and dramatically the prophet



A great stone, cut out of the mountain without hands, struck the image upon the feet, and it fell and was ground to powder.

concluded his interpretation: "In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it break in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made

known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure."

When the world was young, and its small population confined to comparatively narrow limits, great men were able to establish world empires; but none of them endured very long. For the past two millenniums men have not succeeded in doing even as well as the ancients in the building of universal empires. And all because, without taking God into account, they have built on frail human beings. But the prophecy tells us that God will take the same material with which men failed, that is, human beings, transform them and form of them a fifth universal empire, and it will *stand forever.*

And when will God set up this eternal kingdom?—"In the days of these kings." In other words, in our day, while the nations of Europe which dismembered Rome are in existence, God will establish His everlasting kingdom on earth. God's kingdom, "the stone. . . . cut out of the mountain without hands," will become a mountain, and *fill "the whole earth."* This is to be a real, material kingdom, not a "spiritual kingdom" alone, for it is referred to in the prophecy in the same terms as are the literal empires of men. It is not what is now called Christianity, for it is yet to be set up.

IT SHALL STAND FOREVER

This last great empire will not be established till every last vestige of man's power is carried away like chaff, and no place is found for it. And God's kingdom will last forever because it is to be founded by the eternal Creator upon righteous principles, with righteous men and women as its citizens. It is the next great event in world history.



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Adolph Hitler and Benito Mussolini, Axis leaders, who aspired to world authority.

"The dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure." Just as surely as the interpretation of this symbolic prediction was fulfilled to the letter from Daniel's time, 2,500 years ago, till today, so surely will the latter part of it be fulfilled in the very near future. For all signs point to an early end of this age.

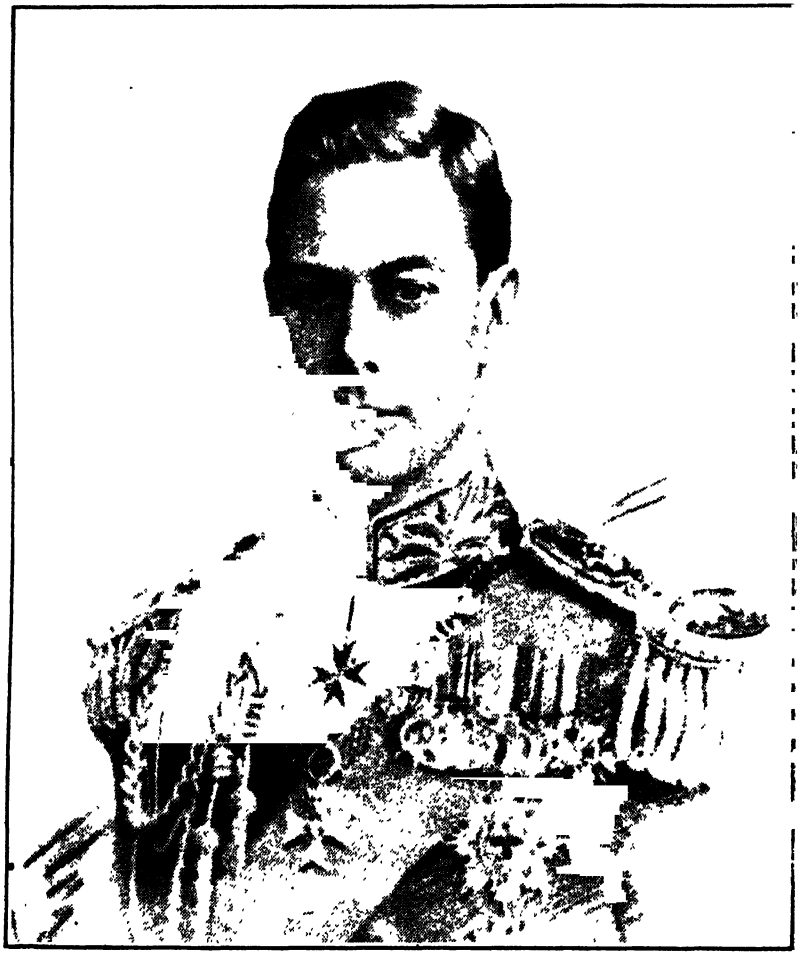
Thus we have, not only a history of the world in four sentences, but that history *in advance;* and in addition we have the prophecy of the events yet before us. We, as well as Nebuchadnezzar might, may now know what is to come to pass hereafter.

A gracious God could have only one purpose in thus revealing the future to men—that men might have an opportunity to be prepared for what is coming, and to get ready to meet it with joy. He is lovingly extending to men today an invitation to have a part in His everlasting kingdom.

1 Daniel, chapter 2.
2 Isaiah 13:19.
3 Daniel 4:30
4 "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," chap. 38, par. 1, under "General Observations," at the close of the chapter



Stalin, the great leader of the Russian people.



Vandyke

His Majesty, George VI, ruler of one of the greatest empires the world has ever known.



Eastern News Photo

Winston Churchill, war Premier of Great Britain, a prominent statesman of modern times.



Harris and Ewing

Franklin D. Roosevelt, outstanding President of the United States of America.

World Dominion—Whose Shall It Be?

TODAY men like to cartoon a nation by representing it by the figure of a man, such as the familiar "John Bull" for Great Britain, and "Uncle Sam" for the United States of America. They like to symbolize ideas by birds or beasts or unique figures; such as the dove for peace; the wolf for starvation as in the saying, "Keep the wolf from the door"; also by stars, circles, stripes, and swastikas on national flags.

The ancients, too, liked to do this. They had their tribal emblems of animals, and their family crests of arms and monograms. So when God wanted to speak to and im-

press men of long ago, He used the symbols with which they were familiar. He used the methods of a good educator, revealer, dispeller of ignorance, even as a modern educator uses object lessons to appeal to the mind through the eye and ear.

Nations as Beasts

God showed the Babylonian Emperor Nebuchadnezzar "what should come to pass hereafter" by picturing the image of a man in metal and clay, no doubt because the ruler worshipped such images and hoped that his own image might be worshipped when he would be dead. But later God gave a fuller prophecy of the same nations prefigured in the great dream image, this time to the prophet Daniel himself. And this time He gave a truer description of the nations, by representing them as ravenous animals. For, strange to say, masses of men, as nations, have always seemed to be more cruel and ruthless than the men, as individuals, who have composed these nations.

The prophecy that follows is not a mere jumble of heads, wings, and horns, to be interpreted as any man may wish. It yields itself to but one meaning, and that meaning is found in the Bible itself. Sometimes the prophet himself interprets his symbols, and sometimes other parts of the Bible must be consulted to get the meaning, for the Bible is harmonious and is its own best interpreter. Then, too, this far down in the stream of time, we may tell the meaning of the prophecy by the history of the world which has fulfilled it.

Now read this fascinating forecast, and see light:

"Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea,



A lion with eagle's wings rose out of the sea.

diverse one from another. The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it."[1]

Meaning of the Symbols

We will begin at the beginning and note what these things mean. Another Bible prophecy reads like this: "Evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth," and in this connection, "He will give them that are wicked to the sword."[2] Thus a *wind* in prophecy seems to be used to represent *war*, "the sword." Still another prophecy says, "The waters which thou sawest,....are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues."[3] And again, an angel later told Daniel, "These great beasts....are four kings [kingdoms], which shall arise."[4]

Now let us place these ideas together and see if they fit. Winds (wars) strive on the sea (peoples), and as a result beasts (nations) come into being. And every student of history knows that nations are established and find "a place in the sun" almost always by means of wars. So much for the general symbols. They work out in a perfectly natural way, and their meaning is plain. And these symbols, as used in symbolic Bible prophecy,—winds, waters, and animals,—never mean anything else than wars, peoples, and nations, respectively.

The Lion With Eagle's Wings

"The first [beast] was like a lion, and had eagle's wings." If a lion and an eagle were mentioned in the same connection now in a newspaper, we would be sure the reference meant some episode between Great Britain ("British lion") and the United States ("American eagle"). But this was ancient history, and an eagle is not mentioned, but only an eagle's wings, *on* the lion. Since Babylon was in power when this prophecy was given to Daniel, and since we know that it was the first of the four world empires, then Babylon must be symbolized by this lion.

To bear this out, see other prophecies which read like this: "The *lion* is come up,. . . . and thy cities shall be laid waste, without an inhabitant."[5] "Behold, he shall fly as an *eagle.*"[6] "Their horsemen . . . shall fly as the eagle that hasteth to eat."[7] "He shall come up and fly as the eagle, and spread his wings over Bozrah,. . . . which Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon shall smite."[8] All these are references to Babylon by other Bible writers. Thus the ancients spoke of Babylon as the eagle and the lion. It is evident what nation God meant by the eagle-winged lion.

The wings, no doubt, stood for the swiftness with which Babylon conquered its enemies.

But in the prophecy the lion became weak like a man, and it no longer flew swiftly in conquest, for its wings were plucked. This was fulfilled by Babylon becoming decadent under Belshazzar, grandson of Nebuchadnezzar, and a once great Babylon fell ignominiously into the hands of the next empire, only three years after this forecast was made.



A bear, with three ribs in its mouth, raised itself up on one side.

THE RAVENOUS BEAR

"And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh."

Babylon was followed by the dual empire of Medo-Persia, the Medes being stronger at first, and then the Persians, symbolized by the bear rising on one side first. The cruel destructiveness with which the Persian monarchs

subdued the world is suggested in the words, "Arise, devour much flesh." The three ribs in the mouth of the bear could represent the triple alliance of Lydia, Egypt, and Babylon, which history says tried to withstand the Persians, but were overthrown in turn.

The Winged Leopard

"After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it."

The empire of Greece, with Alexander as its conquering hero and intrepid monarch, followed Medo-Persia. A leopard is swifter of foot than a lion, and, besides, this leopard had four wings instead of two; thus were prefigured the astonishingly rapid conquests of the Greeks, en-



A leopard appeared, with four wings and four heads.

compassing the then-known world in about eight years.

The four heads of the leopard may well be seen in the four divisions into which the empire was divided by mutual consent of Alexander's leading generals, after fighting for twenty years following his death. Cassander took Greece, Lysimachus took Thrace, Seleucus took Asiatic Greece, and Ptolemy took Egypt.



Lastly, a nondescript beast arose, with iron teeth and ten horns and exceeding strength.

An Indescribable Beast

"After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and break in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it: and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, be-

hold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things."

We are prepared, after the study of the image prophecy of the second chapter of Daniel, to accept the foregoing animal symbol as a description of the Roman Empire, which, at the Battle of Pydna, in 168 B.C., overcame the last vestige of the Grecian Empire and began the last, widest extended, and most enduring of world rulerships. But what a description! In fact, it is indescribable; for the seer cannot liken it to any beast or combination of beasts; he must needs add metal, "iron teeth." And Rome was indeed "dreadful and terrible," as it ground the nations under its iron rule.

We are confirmed in our conclusion by the words of the angel to Daniel, who "would know the truth of the fourth beast." Said he, "The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings."

Rome Divided

Mighty Rome crushed the world under its power, and it stood grandly for over six centuries, but it could not last forever. The prophecy had said it would fall, and it did, exactly as foretold. Ten nations, no more, no less, dismembered the empire. They are recorded as the Alemanni, Franks, Suevi, Burgundians, Vandals, Anglo-Saxons, Visogoths, Ostrogoths, Heruli, and Lombards.

Another horn, the eleventh, was to rise, and, in order to find a place, would uproot three horns. Another power was to appear on the scene, and would overthrow three of

the ten nations. True to the forecast, another kingdom, yet not a kingdom, did arise, and the Heruli, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoths, were obliterated before it, and not a trace of them can be found today. We will deal with this power, and the statements concerning it, in a later chapter. The seven nations left of the ten can be identified in Europe today under the well-known names,—England, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Switzerland.

The Judgment Scene

This prophetic vision of the prophet Daniel closes with the description of a most sublime scene. We do well to study it seriously, for it vitally concerns every person alive today.

"I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head like the pure wool: His throne was like the fiery flame, and His wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him: thousand thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.....I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought Him near before Him. And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."

Later the angel added in interpretation, "But the judgment shall sit.....And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose

kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; and all dominions shall serve and obey Him."

Judgment to Come

That death, which closes the span of life of human beings, is not the final end of life is the belief of nearly all religionists. After suffering the pain and sorrow of this "vale of tears" called life, man cannot bring himself to the hopeless view that there is no better life beyond death. And, seeing the inequalities of this life between man and man, and the injustice that is meted out to some, he cannot think that a just and loving God will not do something to punish the wicked and reward the righteous after death claims both. The grave brings all to the same level, but not to their just deserts.

Surely the Moslems are right in their teaching that there is to be a resurrection of the dead. Islam holds, by the authority of Mohammed as recorded in the Koran, that men should look forward to retribution, and that some day there is to be a glorious triumph of righteousness over iniquity. In other words, there is a judgment to come.

This is the teaching of the Bible. God "hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world."[9] "The dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."[10] "God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."[11]

In order that justice may be done, there is kept in heaven a record of every thought, word, and act of every man, woman, and child who ever lived. "Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give an account thereof in the day of judgment."[12] "Then they that feared the Lord



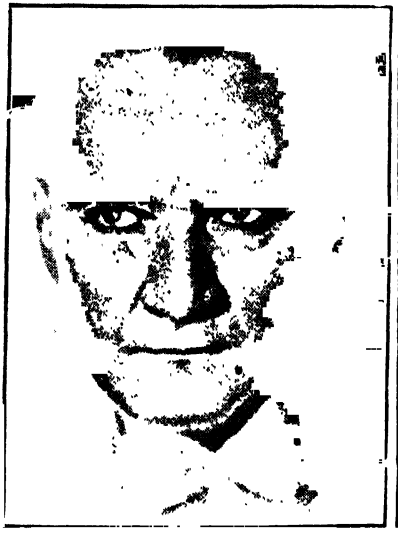
Mahatma Gandhi, India.



Pope Pius XI, Italy.

MEN WHO HAVE SWAYED WORLD AFFAIRS

Kemal Ataturk, Turkey.



Chiang Kai-shek, China.



spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord."[13]

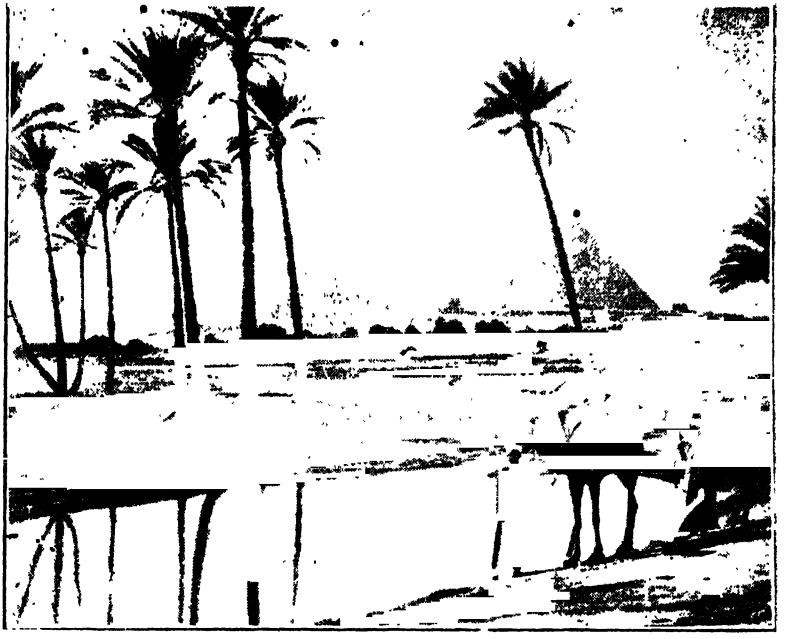
A Solemn Thought

This prophet's vision shows that judgment comes near the end of the age, after the nations which caused the downfall of the Roman Empire found it impossible for them to unite in another world empire. So that places the final judgment at or near our own day. He vividly describes the august sitting when thrones were cast down (seats were placed)[14] and the great Judge of all men, the Ancient of days, begins to investigate the cases of all from the books of record. That will be a fateful time. Something tells us that if we must give an account for the deeds done in the body, we had better be sure that our individual record is clear. Judgment is a solemn matter.

The happy view of it is that, when the judgment is over, those who are judged worthy, the "saints of the most High," will be given the kingdom of this world, and will reign over it forever.

The symbolic image-prophecy (discussed in a former chapter) and the beast-prophecy of the prophet-statesman Daniel, cover the same period of the world's history, yet do not contradict each other in one particular. They complement each other in a most remarkable way, and the wonder is that both of them were proclaimed over twenty-five centuries ago. Thus Bible prophecy commands our respect and admiration, and merits further investigation.

1 Daniel 7:2-4.
2 Jeremiah 25:31-33.
3 Revelation 17:15.
4 Daniel 7:17.
5 Jeremiah 4:7.
6 Jeremiah 48:40.
7 Habakkuk 1:8.
8 Jeremiah 48:40; 49:22, 28.
9 Acts 17:31.
10 Revelation 20:12.
11 Ecclesiastes 12:14
12 Matthew 12:36.
13 Malachi 3:16.
14 "Analytical Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon," Davidson. The imagery, "seats were cast down," is well understood in India, where it is the custom to throw cushions on the floor for seats.



In the historic valley of the Nile, Egypt, are being unearthed relics of the far past which testify to the truth of divine prophecy.

The Stones Cry Out

GOD, the Creator, who inspired the Bible given to the ancient Hebrews, said that He alone could prophesy truthfully. And His scores of fulfilled prophecies testify to this. No other being, god or man, and no other book, even *claims* to give us such details of world events centuries in advance. The Bible challenges all men on prophecy, and stakes its reputation on accurate forecasts to prove that its Author is the one true God; and no one has ever accepted the challenge. God says: "Declare us things for to come, . . . that we may know that ye are gods."[1]

God predicted events through many men, not through one man alone, such as Daniel. And the conditions fore-

told were of such a varied nature, so widely scattered in time and place, and so unusual and unguessable, that there can be no doubt of the authenticity of His foresight. We select a few of His outstanding prophecies to illustrate this.

Tyre Shall Be Built No More

Six centuries before Christ lived, the city of Tyre, on the east coast of the Mediterranean Sea, was the greatest port and commercial centre of the world. Its sailors and merchants colonized North Africa and the far coasts of the Atlantic, including England. It was mistress of the seas when Rome and Carthage were mere villages. The Mediterranean was its private lake. Situated in the geographical centre of the world, it completely dominated the trade of Asia, Africa, and Europe. It seemed to be impregnable to attack by land, and its superb navy defied the combined navies of the world. Every indication pointed to it as an eternal city.

But when it was flourishing at the height of its glory, the God of heaven spoke thus of it through the prophet Ezekiel, "They shall destroy the walls of Tyrus, and break down her towers: I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock. It shall be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea:....and they shall lay thy stones and thy timber and thy dust in the midst of the water.....Thou shalt be built no more."[2]

Not many years passed before the proud city was destroyed by the Babylonians. But the metropolis was rebuilt on an island and continued to exist after that for two and a half centuries, and it looked as if the complete destruction prefigured in the prophecy would not come to pass. Then in 332 B.C. Alexander the Great besieged it. To reach its walls from the mainland a mile away, he built

a mole right out to the city "in the midst of the sea." For material he took the stones, timber, and even the dust from the site of the former city and dumped them into the water. And the island city was wiped out of existence, and became "like the top of a rock."

The city of Sidon, well-located on the coast thirteen miles from Tyre, had been decaying for many years when the prophet wrote, and later it was destroyed by the Persians. The prophet said of her that she would suffer pestilence and bloodshed, but no more.[3] She was rebuilt and has 10,000 inhabitants today. But Tyre was obliterated, and *remains absolutely bare to this day.* By all the rules of reason, one would have said then that Sidon would decay and Tyre would last. But just the opposite came true, and the prophet was right about both.

Visit the spot of Tyre, and see now that the only life there is a few fishermen drying their nets. It is still a very advantageous location for a city, with good soil near by and plenty of water springs. The seer said it would not only be destroyed, but it would "be built no more," and twenty centuries later it remains desolate. God challenges anyone to rebuild Tyre, or even to use any method of fishing there which will exclude nets. We stand in awe before so accurate a forecast over so vast a reach of years. Even though the sceptic may maintain that the prophet lived and spoke *after* Tyre was destroyed (which no reliable historian maintains) he will still have to explain the unreasonable, yet true, fact that not even a little town or village has taken the place of the once mighty metropolis.

The Fate of Nineveh

At the very dawn of history Nineveh was a great city. Founded by Nimrod four thousand years ago, it grew

through the centuries to enormous proportions and great prosperity and power under the Assyrians. It was said to take three days for a traveller to pass through it from side to side. Finally, however, it became very wicked; and then God sent the following message through His prophet Zephaniah: "Woe to her that is filthy and polluted, to the oppressing city! She obeyed not the voice; she received not correction; she trusted not in the Lord; she drew not near to God." "How is she become a desolation, a place for beasts to lie down in!"[4] And the prophet Nahum declared, "He will make an utter end of the place thereof." "The palace shall be dissolved." "She is empty, and void, and waste."[5]

Then, for no apparent reason other than that given by the prophets, Nineveh was removed from the map by her conquerors, the Babylonians and the Medes. Today the plain on which the once stupendous aggregation of buildings stood lies a waste, a lair for wild animals. Even its ruins are now no more. Across the Tigris River from modern Mosul, its place has come to "an utter end." The drifting sands have engulfed it. A remarkable vindication of the deadly certitude of divine prophecy.

Again, there is Ashkelon in Palestine. It had been in existence for 1,800 years at the time of Christ, and was then at its greatest. But centuries *before* Christ, Zephaniah predicted for it "desolation";[6] and Zechariah said it would "not be inhabited."[7] For centuries after these dire predictions it grew and flourished—then, oblivion. Twelve centuries after Christ it stood, but now, the land fertile as ever, there is no town there at all.

Babylon Desolate Forever

Perhaps the most noteworthy, however, of all the Bible

predictions regarding the future of cities was made concerning Babylon. We have already described somewhat this "glory of the Chaldees' excellency." In many respects, this great capital was without a peer among cities in history. Her scholars invented time-measuring apparatus, worked out an alphabet, rose high in mathematics, discovered the art of engraving precious stones, developed sculpture, turned from astrology to astronomy, codified laws, made a science of grammar, made chronology more exact; and passed on to Greece much of the art for which that nation gets credit. With the weakest of building materials, sun-baked clay, she erected the greatest structural wonders of the ancient world, the famous hanging gardens, the temple of Balus, and her towering walls. She was the golden capital of a golden kingdom.

Yet, when Babylon was the "glory of kingdoms," the prophet Isaiah said of her that she "shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah." As is well known, the site of the old cities of Sodom and Gomorrah is now the bottom of the Dead Sea. There could be no more complete annihilation. "It shall *never be inhabited*," continued the prophet. Unlike Sodom, it *could* have been inhabited, for it has continued to be on the earth's surface, but it was not to be. "Neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there."[8] And the prophet Jeremiah piles on more, "Thou [Babylon] shalt be *desolate forever*,. . . .shall become heaps, a dwelling-place for dragons, an astonishment, and an hissing, without an inhabitant."[9]

The Old Testament Bible, which contains these prophecies, is a very ancient book, and no historian questions but what these forecasts were made before Christ. And they



Modern research is discovering the wisdom of ancient peoples.

pictured exact details, then highly improbable, that were to come two and a half millenniums later, today. How did the prophet know that the wandering Arabs of that day would still be there today, and the settled Babylonians would have vanished from the face of the earth? How did he know they would still live in tents there, and not use the ruins to build houses? Travellers in these times tell us that no Arab, fearless warrior though he is, can be persuaded or hired at any price to stay in the ruins of Babylon overnight.

Many other modern fulfilments of age-old Bible predictions about Babylon might be cited, and all tell the same story. The wastes of Babylon now are untillable, pastureless, desolate, dismal, animal-ridden, forbidding,—striking tokens of God's unfailing word. The Great Wall of China, older than Babylon, stands today, remarkably preserved, but Babylon is shifting sand dunes.

Egypt Remains

We turn from cities to nations. Lest the reader be tempted to doubt such astounding prophecies, and to say that all human works are bound to perish sometime, and that therefore the ancients were safe in predicting utter destruction thousands of years hence, let us call attention to forecasts concerning Egypt. The civilization of Egypt goes back as far or farther than any other known, yet Egypt exists today: and the Bible seers not once said that she would perish from the earth. What did they say of her?

When they prophesied of Egypt's future, six hundred years before Christ, that country and people was already as old as Rome and the oldest cities of India are today. Its people led the world in science, art, culture, and opulence. Irrigated and fertilized by the ever-flowing Nile, the nation

gave promise of never-ending independence and prosperity. Then the prophets of God, Isaiah and Ezekiel, spoke. "It shall be the basest of the kingdoms." "They shall no more rule over the nations." "There shall no more be a prince of the land of Egypt." "I will cause their images to cease out of Noph." "I will make the land waste, and all that is therein, by the hand of strangers."[11]

All this has come to pass. Egypt continued to be a great nation for many centuries after the prophecy. Six hundred years later it was still strong and luxurious, but it was ruled by "strangers," the emperors of Rome. Six more centuries passed, and the Muslim armies took over the country. After a siege of fourteen months, the rich city of Alexandria fell before them, and the books in its enormous library kept the army in fuel for six months. They found the nation rich, populous, and prosperous. It looked as if some of the prophecies about its decline would never be fulfilled. But it did decline, as may be seen in modern time.

Not once during the last twenty-five hundred years has Egypt been ruled by native princes. The Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantine Greeks, Saracens, Turks, French, and British—all "strangers"—have successively ruled her. And today, though spoken of as being independent, it is well known that Egypt has a protective alliance with Great Britain. Further, its present ruler is a descendant of Mehemet Ali, founder of the present royal Egyptian house. But Mehemet Ali was an Albanian, having been born at Kavala, a small seaport in Macedonia. Thus this dynasty is not originally Egyptian.

Moreover, the temple city of Memphis, no doubt anciently full of images, was to be, according to the prophecy, empty of images. While today images of many kinds are excavated from all over the country, it is said that no images

are dug out of the ruins of Memphis, and this, considering that the climate of Egypt is the best ever known for the preservation of any material out of which images may have been made.

The Miracle of the Jews

Unquestionably the most amazing and convincing object lesson on the reliability of Biblical prophecy is right before our eyes in all countries of the world today. A whole race, many millions strong, was virile four thousand years ago, and is virile and numerous today. Their future, also, was outlined by seers of old, and they are our neighbours. We are well able to check up in the minutest detail everything that was uttered concerning them. We refer to the Jews.

The Jews have been the most continuing people on the face of the earth. They were a great people before, during, and after the existence and crash of the four universal empires of history. Mighty and oppressive Rome was but an incident in their long career. They have been despoiled, scattered, enslaved, persecuted, times without number, yet their enemies have perished one by one as this remarkable people has spread all over the world and prospered. Persia alone remains of their ancient neighbours, no doubt because Persia did them a kindness in restoring them from captivity.

For the first predictions of Jewish fortunes and misfortunes, we reach far back into history, three thousand four hundred years ago. Moses, one of their own prophets, paints the picture of their future: "I [God] will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste." "And upon them that are left alive of you I will send a

faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies." "And ye shall have no power to stand before your enemies." "And yet for all that, when they be in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly." "The Lord shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all kingdoms of the earth."[12]

How remarkably familiar this sounds to those who are reading the newspapers today. That which has been going on for millenniums in the history of the Jews, in answer to prophecy, is being repeated before our eyes. Beaten, imprisoned, exiled, robbed, made homeless, to many the offscouring of the earth, a "hissing and a byword," blamed for all ills—yet they have maintained their identity as a distinct people, and have astounded the world with their tenacity and persistence. We find Jews everywhere, and we always identify them as Jews. They have kept their blood stream pure, when no other nation or race ever has. They have kept separate when all other people have amalgamated. How did a seer of four millenniums ago know that they alone would do this? Moses said they would be an astonishment, and we can testify that they are.

Separate From the Nations

True, they were once God's chosen people; and He commanded them not to intermarry with outsiders. So they have kept apart. But two thousand years ago they ceased to be God's own, and they have flouted and disobeyed nearly every other one of God's commandments for them. But they obeyed the injunction to stay separated, and are the only such instance in history. Why? We may be unable to say; but the fact that they did so attests the irrefutable and immutable character of Bible prophecy.

The fiat said that *every* nation would oppress them. Thus Divinity challenges any man to cite any nation past or present which has always received Jews with open arms, and has ever granted them absolute equality in society, government, and business pursuits. They have had, and have, their admirers and champions, but where have been any lovers of them among the nations? Stranger still, the only record of all this that was to come upon them has been given us by the very people who were to suffer it, when one would think they would have destroyed such a forecast of their shame and humiliation.

It was said of them that they were to be dispossessed and driven out of their land, that it was to be desolate for a time and full of ruins, yet their enemies were to dwell in it. So foreigners abide in Palestine today, and *preserve the ruins.* Moses spoke of "the foreigner that shall come from a far land"; and we know that the Holy Land is the most visited by aliens—Muslims, Jews, Christians—of any land on earth. It is the place of pilgrimage for over half the world's population. More than fifty languages are spoken in Jerusalem.

To the Sword

The bloody chronicle of Jewish slaughter confirms the word of the prophet, "I will . . . draw out a sword after you." Two millions of them were killed, starved, and sold into slavery at the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D. And this was but the beginning of sorrows for them, as their fate in some countries today distressingly witnesses.

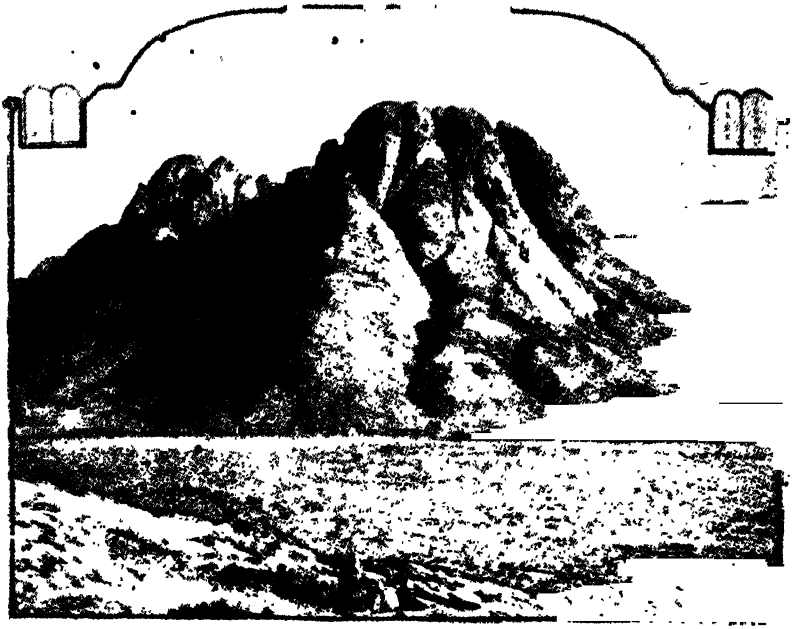
Here is a strikingly realistic passage from the historian Milman: "No fanatic monk set the populace in commotion, no public calamity took place, no atrocious or

extravagant report was propagated, but it fell upon the heads of this unhappy caste. In Germany the black plague raged with all its fury, and wild superstition charged the Jews, as elsewhere, with causing and aggravating the misery, and themselves enjoying a guilty comparative security amid the universal desolation." "Oppressed by nobles, anathematized by the clergy, hated as rivals in trade by burghers in commercial cities, despised and abhorred by the populace, their existence is known by the chronicle. . . .of their massacres." "Massacred by thousands, yet springing up again from their undying stock, the Jews appear in all times and in all regions. Their perpetuity, their national immortality, is at once the most curious problem to the political enquirer, to the religious man a subject of profound and awful admiration."[13]

Anything might have happened to the Jews. They might have been annihilated as were the Assyrians, Chaldeans, Egyptians, Romans, and many other peoples; but they were not. They might have been amalgamated with other peoples; but they were not. They might have remained in their own land; but they were banished. They might have gradually disappeared, or they might have been confined to one part of the world; but singularly and incredibly, considering their frightful past, they are here now, everywhere present, and potent.

So multiply the convincing vindications of the certainty of Bible prophecy.

1 Isaiah 41:22, 23.
2 Ezekiel 26:2-14.
3 Ezekiel 28:20-23.
4 Zephaniah 3:1, 2; 2:15.
5 Nahum 1:8; 2:6, 10.
6 Zephaniah 2:4.
7 Zechariah 9:5.
8 Isaiah 13:19, 20.
9 Jeremiah 51:26, 37.
10 "Travels," p. 235, Captain Mignan.
11 Ezekiel 29:14, 15; 30:6, 7; 32:15; 30 12, 13
12 Leviticus 26:33, 36, 37, 44; Deuteronomy 28; also Jeremiah 15:4; 16:13; 9:15, 16; 24:9, 10; 15:7; Ezekiel 5:10; 7:19; 12:15; Amos 9:4, 9; Jeremiah 8: 3; Hosea 9:17; Isaiah 6:10-12; Jeremiah 31:10; 46:27, 28; Hosea 3.4, 5.
13 "History of the Jews," Milman, Vol III, pp. 222, 223, 298, 299.



Mount Sinai, Arabia, where God proclaimed His law in grandeur to His people anciently.

The Greatest War of All Times

THE greatest war ever fought is not a titanic conflict in Europe, but is the continual strife between good and evil in individual lives. A wise man once said, "In me (that is, in my flesh) no good dwells, I know; the wish is there, but not the power of doing what is right. I cannot be good as I want to be and I do wrong against my wishes."[1] How like his experience is yours and mine! Our conscience tells us to do good, but our desires often urge us to do evil.

When we think of this war within us, we soon see that the same cause which started it has caused every other war that is known to man—wars between races, religions, classes,

nations, communities, and persons. There is a spirit of antagonism in man. Naturally most people love peace, but war is forced upon them so urgently that some come to the state of mind where they like strife, and seem to need it in order to be stimulated to make progress. Therefore certain philosophers reason that fighting is good for all of us. But we see too many dire results of war to believe that,—pain, worry, defeat, disease, death, all come of armed strife.

This fighting within us and around us points for its solution to a greater war between beings higher than we are, between God and the devil. But why this great controversy? What *is* good, and what *is* evil, that one should be set against the other? Will these wars never end? And if they will end, which side will conquer; and what will become of the conquered? It looks now as if evil is on the throne, ruling with the power of a dictator; and the prospect is dark.

In order fully to understand and appreciate the prophecies of the momentous events treated in the following chapters, it is necessary for the reader to view their background. And this background is the story of the age-old war between the invisible forces of good and evil which sway men and nations. It is an intensely interesting history. Tapping divine sources as heretofore, we will sketch it briefly.

The Godhead

It is generally accepted that God existed from all eternity; and the Bible teaches that He has ever had His Son associated on equality with Him; and also another personality known as the Holy Spirit. These three are the Trinity, or Godhead, and are not three divergent Gods, but are one in character and purpose. We speak of them together.[2]

God created all things; and He is everlasting, all-powerful, and all-wise. His dwelling-place is heaven, somewhere in space. The foundation of His character and dealings is love.[3] The nature of this divine love is such that it must have objects upon which it can be bestowed. So God created angels (heavenly beings), and afterward men (earthly beings), that He might love them. And He made them capable of loving Him in return, since for this love to continue it must be both given and received.[4]

Divine Love and Law

Also the nature of this divine love is such that it cannot be forced; it must be free and voluntary. We understand this, because we also do not appreciate anyone loving us unless they are free *not* to love us if they so choose. Thus God made His creatures free moral agents—they could refuse to love Him if they chose; else of what value was their love to Him?[5]

God founded the kingdom of heaven upon love, with the Godhead as King, and created beings as His subjects. He wrote ten laws, or constitution principles, to govern the relationships of Himself and His creatures, so that they would know how to show their love for Him and for one another.[6] The very fact that separate beings live together requires that they must obey rules which direct how they can live together in peace and for the good of all. In short, these laws stated that angels and men were not to worship and obey any other god but the Godhead; that they were not to make and worship any image of God or of anything God had made; that they were to honour His name; that they were to keep the seventh day of the week as a memorial of creation and as a special sign that God is their God and that they are His creatures; that they were to honour their

parents, and to refrain from killing, committing adultery, stealing, lying, and coveting.

The First Rebel

The greatest angel in heaven in ancient times was Lucifer. He chose to think that God did not love His creatures, but was a tyrant, forcing them to do that which they did not want to do.[7] He persuaded many other angels in heaven to side with him. Under his leadership, they rebelled against God, and "there was war in heaven." This could not continue, since it took love and peace from heaven Lucifer and his supporters were not destroyed immediately, for they must be given a chance to prove in time whether Lucifer or God was right and just. But they were cast out of heaven.[8] Thus God treated them fairly, and would afford every creature full opportunity to observe how the opposing claims would work out in the end.

This casting out of heaven of Lucifer and his followers occurred about the time this world on which we live was created by the Godhead. Lucifer's name was changed to Satan, and the rebels were cast to this earth for a trial of their form of government, which advocated every creature doing as he pleases. These lawless angels were allowed to retain some of their angelic powers, such as being able to make themselves visible or invisible at will, to impersonate anyone they wished, and to transport themselves swiftly from place to place.[9]

About six thousand years ago, the Godhead created this earth, and all that is in it, including man, in six twenty-four-hour days. On the seventh day of time He rested, and made that particular day holy, calling it the Sabbath (rest) and dedicating it to be kept holy forever by all mankind as a memorial of His creative power. The week of seven days

was not marked off by nature, as the day, and the month, and the year are marked by movements of the sun and moon. The Sabbath day is the climax and close of the week.[10]

Upon being exiled to this earth, Satan and his angels set up an invisible kingdom of their own, to prove that their system of government was better than God's. Naturally they would do everything possible to discredit God's word, break His laws, destroy His Sabbath, and win man away from obedience to Him. One might question the wisdom of God in inflicting such a powerful enemy on man in the innocence and inexperience of man's first creation. But Satan must be given a trial somewhere; and we are well aware that a righteous character, man's highest attribute, cannot be attained except under trial and discipline.[11] Thus God, in exposing man to this rebellious enemy of divinity, was working for man's good. Besides, the Godhead had already made a plan whereby man could be saved, should he fall into the trap of Satan.[12]

A Test of Obedience

To test our first parents, Adam and Eve, God placed one tree in the midst of their garden home, and commanded them not to touch it, lest they die. They had plenty to eat without its fruit. But Satan impersonated a beautiful serpent and tempted Eve, and then used her as an agent to tempt Adam to eat the forbidden fruit.[13] They ate, and so committed sin, which is the breaking of God's law.[14] Thus sin, evil, came into the world, and has increased till the present day. Thus man came under the rulership of Satan, whom for a time God allows to reign over the earth as a usurper.[15] Man allied himself with Satan; and is helpless in his hands unless God intervenes.

Then the plan to save man from the power of Satan

(if man chose to be so saved) was perfected by the Godhead. It is the most remarkable scheme of justice, mingled with mercy, that the universe has ever seen, the marvel of all Heaven.[16] We will describe it in another chapter.

The War Between Good and Evil

Down through the history of the world, God and Satan, good and evil, have been arrayed against each other, with man as the pawn in the terrific struggle. Satan has been more or less successful in winning the large majority of every generation of men to his side. Their's has been the "broad road," whereas God's adherents have always been in the minority, in the "narrow way."[17]

About a millennium and a half after creation, men had become so wicked and rebellious and degenerate under Satan's rule, that God destroyed all of them with a great flood of waters, saving only eight righteous persons, and some representative animals, in a great ship which He had instructed them to build.[18] With this new start, the human race continued. But they were born in sin, and must still be left free to decide whether their allegiance would be to God or Satan.[19]

Beginning of Languages

As the world became repeopled after the Deluge, its inhabitants did not want to spread abroad over the face of the continents, as God has commanded; so they built a great city and a tower at Babel, in the country that is now Mesopotamia, and congregated there to stay. To accomplish His purpose for men, God then miraculously made them speak many languages instead of one. This change caused the people of each language group to get together and to move to another part of the world for settlement.

This was the beginning of the many languages in the world today.[20]

As men turned more and more to wickedness, God decided to choose one group as His chosen people, and to work through them for the salvation of all men. God loves all peoples alike. These chosen people were the Hebrews. They grew in number from one man, Abraham, till they were a large clan. They were directed to live in Canaan (modern Palestine); but they had to move to Egypt because of a famine, and were enslaved there for two centuries.[21]

Finally God delivered them from slavery under the leadership of Moses and Aaron, two famous brothers. At this time they were about two million in number. For forty years they camped and wandered in the desert country south of Palestine; and there God taught them and trained them in His ways. He gave them His ten commandments, written with His own finger on two tables of stone, and made plain that this law was never to be changed in the smallest part.[22]

The Sabbath Day

In the very centre of this law was the command to keep holy the seventh day, Sabbath, the memorial of creation and the connecting link between God and men. In this command, and in no other of the ten, was given the name of the Lawgiver, His title, and the extent of His territory, in these words: "The Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is." Thus we have God, Creator, ruler of heaven and earth. (The terms *God* and *Lord* are used interchangeably in the Bible.) And so in this fourth, or Sabbath, command is the seal, or sign, or name, of the One who made and proclaimed the law. In no other part of the law is it found.[23]

In establishing Israel (the Hebrews were known as Israel,

or Israelites) as His peculiar people, God re-emphasized the Sabbath day as the sign between Him and them; and He took particular pains to show them which day it was. While they were forty years in the wilderness, they could not get food from the barren country; so God miraculously sent them manna, "bread from heaven." It was "a small, round thing," which fell about the camp every day, and which they made into a very nourishing bread. Every day it fell except Sabbath. If the manna was kept overnight it would spoil, except over Friday night; and twice as much fell on Friday as on any other day, so they would have a Sabbath supply. Thus by a miracle, every week for forty years, God set the world right on which day of the week is the Sabbath.[24] And ten million modern Jews, though long since rejected as God's chosen people, who are the lineal descendants of ancient Israel, and though scattered far and wide over the earth, all acknowledge Saturday (the seventh day of the week by our calendar) to be God's Sabbath for all mankind.

Satan's Chief Aim

It is evident that Satan, in fighting against God and trying to win God's people to his side, would direct his chief efforts against the foundation of God's throne, His law, and particularly against the Sabbath command, which alone contains the seal of God. But God has always maintained His Sabbath; and His true people have always kept it as a holy day for worship.[25] At the time of Daniel, the prophet, God had allowed Israel to be taken captive because of their sins. They were in exile in Babylon, and their land of Palestine was laid waste.[26]

Man Must Decide

Therefore, the conclusion is that good may be defined

as obedience to God's ten-commandment law; and evil, sin, is disobedience to that law. God is doing everything possible to make men see that obedience without question is the only way to life, liberty, and happiness. Satan, on the other hand, is doing everything possible to convince men that life, liberty, and happiness can be gained only through lawlessness.

God is using only love and persuasiveness to win men to His side; and He works through His human followers on earth who are grouped and organized into His church.[27] Satan is using hatred, vengeance, deception, persecution, intimidation, and even murder to accomplish his object of separating man from God; and he uses various agencies—individuals, nations, godless organizations of various sorts, and at times even devout religious groups.[28] Many a man, through ignorance of the tremendous issues at stake, believes he is serving God, when in reality he may be on the other side.[29]

It is the vital concern of every person on earth today who values his life, liberty, and happiness, to find out where he stands with relation to God and Satan; for certainly the evil way leads to eternal destruction, and the good way to life everlasting.[30]

1 Romans 7:18, 19, Moffatt's translation.
2 Deuteronomy 33:27; John 1:1-3, 14; Hebrews 1:1, 2; Genesis 1:2; Matthew 28:19
3 Revelation 4:11; Psalms 62:11; Romans 16:27; I Kings 8:30; I John 4:8.
4 I John 4:9, 10, 19-21.
5 Joshua 24:15; Revelation 22:17.
6 Exodus 34:28; 20:1-17.
7 Ezekiel 28:12-19; Isaiah 14:13, 14.
8 Revelation 12:7-9.
9 Job 1:6; Ephesians 6:12; I Kings 22:20-22; II Corinthians 11:14
10 Genesis 1; 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8.
11 Hebrews 2:10.
12 Genesis 3:14, 15; John 3:16.
13 Genesis 3:1-6.
14 I John 3:4
15 John 14:30.
16 Ephesians 3:17-19.
17 Matthew 7:13, 14.
18 Genesis 6-8.
19 Psalms 51:5.
20 Genesis 11:1-9.
21 Genesis 12
22 Acts 7:2-36; Matthew 5:17, 18.
23 Exodus 20:8-11
24 Exodus 16; Ezekiel 20:12, 20.
25 Mark 2:27, 28; Luke 4:16; Acts 17:1, 2.
26 Daniel 1:1, 2.
27 Hebrews 12:23.
28 John 8:44; II Thessalonians 2:7-12.
29 John 16:2.
30 Deuteronomy 30:15.



A statue, in Rome, of Peter the Apostle, said to be the founder of the Roman Catholic Church.



The seal of Constantine the Great, Roman Emperor in the fourth century of the Christian era.

A Time-Setting Prophecy

THERE is a mysterious symbolic forecast in the prophecies of Daniel, in whom we have learned to have confidence, which has a very vital connection with the progress and outcome of the war between good and evil. This strange symbol was referred to in Chapter II, but was not explained. After the seer had noted the ten horns on the unnamed beast of his vision, he says, "Behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things." This horn was "more stout than his fellows," and he "made war with the saints, and prevailed against them."[1]

The interpreting angel said of this horn, "Another shall rise after them [the ten horns]; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. And he

shall speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."[2]

A Dominant Power

In plain language, this prophecy says that after the Empire of Rome would be divided into ten nations, another different power would arise, would destroy three of the ten nations in order to secure room to rule, and would become very strong, stronger than any of the seven nations still left. It would speak very stoutly against God, would wear out the people ("saints") of God, and would even think to change God's law, and also would think to change the divisions of time that God had set. And this power was to continue for a certain period, spoken of as "a time and times and the dividing of time."[3]

What "diverse" power arose among the ten nations into which the Roman Empire had been divided by the year 476 A.D., was the means of destroying three nations, and rapidly became stronger than the others? At this point in our explanation, we affirm that this power was the Roman Catholic Church; truly a most amazing affirmation—that a religious body bearing the name of God's Son would oppose God. But we will give specifications of the prophecy and the answer of history. Whether the Christian Church of Rome realized it or not, it was used to oppose God, and His law, and His people.

Identifying Marks

The Papacy was a *religious* power; thus it was "diverse," different, from all the others, which were *political* powers. By the fifth century after Christ, the Church of

Rome had reached a dominating position over the other Christian churches of Europe, Asia, and North Africa. At this time a doctrinal controversy arose in the Christian churches. The Roman Church took sides and declared that the opposing doctrine, called Arianism, was heretical, and commanded that all Arian heretics be destroyed. The Ostrogoths, the Heruli, and the Vandals (three of the ten nations into which Rome had been divided) had taken sides with Arianism. One by one they were annihilated at the instigation of the church, "plucked up by the roots," without trace; and the Roman Church stood supreme. From that time it claimed overlordship of all kings. All this is history, and it corresponds in every detail to the picture that prophecy paints.

We will note in turn the identifying marks of this power, as given by Daniel. "*He shall speak great words against the Most High.*" We will give the words of the Roman Church itself on this point. Says Ferraris's "Ecclesiastical Dictionary" about the Pope of Rome, head of the Papacy: "The Pope is of so great dignity and so exalted that he is not a mere man, but as it were God and the vicar of God. So that whatever the Pope does, seems to proceed from the mouth of God. The Pope is as it were God on earth." [4] Said Pope Leo XIII: "We hold on this earth the place of God Almighty." [5] These "great words" make a mere man to be God; and are therefore spoken "against the Most High."

He "shall wear out the saints of the Most High." It may be accepted as a fact of human experience that the wrong always persecutes the right; never does the right persecute. It is the "saints," God's children, who are worn out by the enemies of God. What does the Papacy admit,

even boast, that it has done in this regard? A French Catholic scholar, Prof. Alfred Baudrillart, says: "The Catholic Church,....when confronted by heresy, does not content herself with persuasion; arguments of an intellectual and moral order appear to her insufficient, and she has recourse to force, to corporal punishment, to torture."[6]

A Persecuting Church

Again, in our times, spokesmen for the Catholic Church admit and justify the fact that this church has been the means of putting to death millions of "heretics," which means those who dared to differ from the church in religious belief. An American Roman Catholic paper has this: "The Church has persecuted. Only a tyro in church history will deny that.....Protestants were persecuted in France and Spain with full approval of the church authorities.....When she [the Catholic Church] thinks it good to use physical force, she will use it.....But will the Catholic Church give bond that she will not persecute at all? Will she guarantee absolute freedom and equality of all churches and all faiths? The Catholic Church gives no bonds for her good behaviour."[7]

He shall "think to change times and laws." The prophecy is dealing with matters that pertain to the "Most High." Therefore, it must be the times and laws of the Most High, God, that the Papacy thought to change. Not that it *does* change them, in God's sight, but it makes many people believe they are changed. As to "times," it is well known that the Papacy claims to be able to, and has, set feasts, holy days, and saints' days, for which there is no Bible authority. It has made December 25 the anniversary of Christ's birth, yet Christ could not have been born at that time of the year. It has made Easter Sunday a memorial anniversary of the

resurrection of Christ, yet God made baptism by immersion, which the Papacy rejects, the memorial of that event. It has made Easter wander about in the calendar and always to come on Sunday, a preposterous and impossible thing in an anniversary. And also many other holy days were set without Biblical authority.

Dares to Change God's Law

By far the most presumptuous and glaring changes, however, have been made by the Papacy in God's ten commandment law. The church claims the right to do this. Says Ferraris in his article on the Pope in his "Ecclesiastical Dictionary," "The Pope can modify divine law, since his power is not of man, but of God."[4] This church has omitted altogether the second commandment of the ten, which forbids the making and worship of images; for Catholics have images in their worship. And it has divided the tenth commandment, on coveting, into two parts, to make up the full number.

But the climax came when the Papacy laid bold and daring hands on the fourth, the Sabbath, command of the decalogue. Let the reader remember that this command alone contains the seal of the Lawgiver, designating a definite day of the week, the seventh, as the true Sabbath, and is the object of Satan's special attack. *The Papacy removed the seal.* It reduced the long fourth commandment to, "Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day," with no intimation as to which day it is, or as to the One who made the law.

Origin of Sunday-Keeping

Then the Papacy deliberately changed the Christian day of worship from the *seventh* to the *first* day of the week. As a consequence, nearly all of Christendom now keeps

Sunday. History states that the change came in so gradually that any one generation of Christians hardly realized what was going on. Men live and die; but Satan, who manipulates men, lives on; and his is a master mind. Two reasons for the change were brought to bear to sway men's minds and get their consent to it: (1) They were told not to "Judaize" because the Jews killed Christ; and the Jews kept Saturday as the Sabbath. (2) The church wanted to gather into its fold a large number of pagans; and the pagans worshipped the sun and had named Sunday in honour of that worship. Thus a compromise was made to win adherents.

The Papacy Boasts of the Change

We will let the Papacy itself testify on this change. From its officially authorized catechism we quote the following:

"*Ques.*—Have you any other way of proving that the church has power to institute festivals of precept?

"*Ans.*—Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her,—she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority."[8]

Thus, the prophecy said that such a power *would* think to make this change in God's law; history says the Papacy *did* it; and the Papacy boasts that *it* was the power that did it. Can we have stronger proofs?

The Beginning and the End

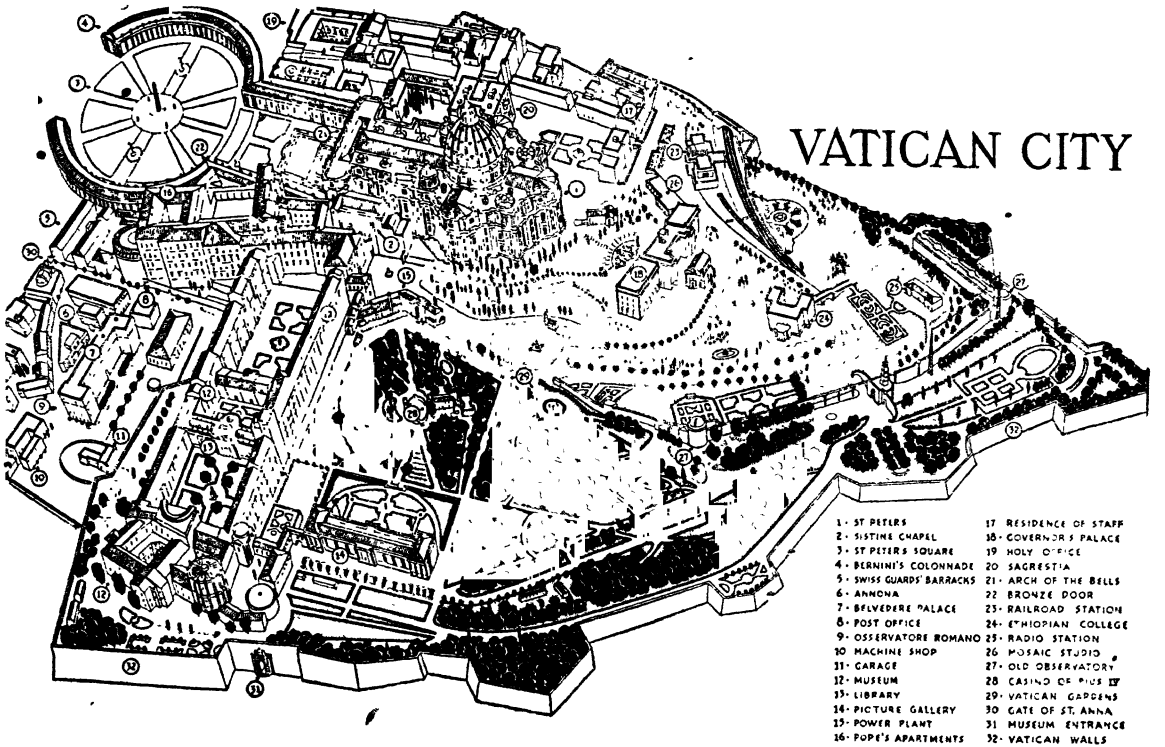
"*They shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.*" "They" refers to the

saints and times and laws.' This time-prophecy designates the period of years during which the Papacy would hold full sway over the minds of men, and do the things ascribed to it. History is clear as to the year the Papacy gained its full power. In 533 A.D. the Emperor Justinian, who ruled the Roman Empire from its new capital in Constantinople, issued a famous letter which gave imperial sanction to the bishop of Rome as head of all the churches in Christendom.[9] But at this time the Ostrogoths, a nation belonging to the heretical Arian sect, were in control of the city of Rome. Five years later, in 538 A.D., the Ostrogoths were overthrown by the armies of Justinian.[10] They were the last enemy of the Papacy, for the Heruli and Vandals had been subdued already. Thus 538 is plainly the year of the beginning of papal rule.

Equally clear is history on the termination of the supremacy of the Papacy. In the year 1793 the French government (which had been the later Papacy's chief support) issued a decree abolishing the church and all religion;[11] and five years later, in 1798, a French army under General Berthier, by command of the great Napoleon, marched into Rome, proclaimed a republic, and took the Pope into exile in France, where he died. From that time the Papacy was shorn of power over the nations, though it did not come to a complete end.[12]

A Remarkable Time-Prophecy

Now we will check up on the prophecy of Daniel. Subtract 538 from 1798 and we have 1260 years, the period of papal rule. This must correspond to "time, and times and the dividing of time." Does it? We will approach the solution by calling attention to the remarkable fact that this period is referred to no less than *seven times* in the



The circumscribed, but potent, capital of the Catholic Church and State.

Bible, though these references vary in wording. Here they are, in addition to the one in the scripture we are considering: "time, times, and an half"; "time, and times, and half a time"; "forty and two months" twice; "a thousand two hundred and three score days" twice.[13] We will not take space here to show that all these references are speaking of this same period of papal supremacy.

If we note that the ancient Hebrews divided the years into twelve months of thirty days each; that in symbolic time-prophecy a day stands for a year;[14] and that the word "time" in the Bible often refers to a year[15]—the solution of our problem is a simple matter of arithmetic, since these varied ways of expressing the same thought interpret one another. It is obvious that time, times, and a half would be three and one half years, which equals forty-two months, which equals 1260 days. And, counting a day for a year, the length of the period is 1260 years—exactly the length of papal supremacy, according to the historic beginning and ending dates, 538 and 1798.

A Prediction Marvel

This is a marvel in our eyes. A seer predicts the rise of a strange power the like of which was never before known in history,—a religious dictator dominating political states,—foresees exactly what it will do on several counts, and prophesies to the very year the length of its duration—all this over a thousand years before it made its appearance on earth. Daniel forecast in the sixth century before Christ a dominion that was to come into being in the sixth century after Christ. Such an amazing accomplishment can be accounted for in no other way than that the God of heaven, who knows the end from the beginning, spoke through the prophet.

The millennium-spanning period of 1260 years—a period known as the "Dark Ages," because an intolerant religious power then fettered and persecuted the bodies and minds and souls of men—had its beginning in the spectacular scenes of the break-up of the Roman Empire, and its close in the equally spectacular scenes of the French Revolution. There can be no doubt of the historical facts. Thus God again challenged the world with His unerring prophecy.

A Comforting Assurance

The most comforting part of the prophecy is found at its close: "And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him."[16]

Thus, in spite of present indications to the contrary, God and good will finally triumph over Satan and evil. As surely as the former portions of the forecast have been fulfilled, this prophetic promise will also be fulfilled. God is the hope of His people all down through the ages, and on to the end.

1 Daniel 7:8, 20, 21

2 Daniel 7:24, 25.

3 Daniel 7:25.

4 Ferraris' "Ecclesiastical Dictionary" (Roman Catholic), Article on the Pope.

5 Pope Leo XIII, in an Encyclical Letter dated June 20, 1894, "The Great Encyclical Letters of Leo XIII," p. 304.

6 "The Catholic Church; The Renaissance and Protestantism" by Alfred Baudrillart (Roman Catholic), pp. 182, 183.

7 "The Western Watchman" (Roman Catholic), December 24, 1908.

8 "A Doctrinal Catechism," Rev. Stephen Keenan, p. 174.

9 "The Apocalypse of St. John," Rev George Croly, A.M., p. 170, Second Edition.

10 "Italy and Her Invaders," Thomas Hodgkins, Vol. 4, pp. 285, 286.

11 "Age of Revolution," W. H. Hutton, p. 156.

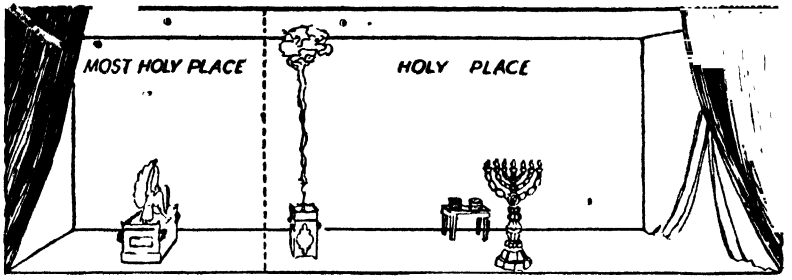
12 "The Modern Papacy," Rev. Joseph Rickaby, S. J., p. 1.

13 Daniel 12:7; Revelation 12:14; 11:2, 3; 12:6; 13:5.

14 Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6.

15 Daniel 4:16; 11:13 (margin).

16 Daniel 7:27.



A diagram showing the interior arrangement of the sanctuary which God commanded His people to build that He might dwell among them.

A Remarkable Plan to Save Men From Death

ALL men die. "As sure as death," has become a saying among all peoples. But, given a reasonable amount of happiness in life, all men want to live and not die. So death is counted as an enemy of man, and everyone tries to defeat or escape this enemy.[1] The yearning of the ages has been for long life. The wish of every man for his friendly neighbour has been for longevity. How welcome, then, is the good news that there is a way whereby men may escape eternal death and be given eternal life!

Better still, it is possible for everyone who lives to follow in this way, for it is not difficult. Who of those who desire above all things to escape death, would not want to read this chapter and thus to discover the conditions of this way to life?

Justice and Mercy

When our first parents, Adam and Eve, disobeyed God's command by eating of the fruit of the forbidden tree in their garden home, they had to die. As no government of man can continue to exist if it tolerates crime (which is disobedi-

ence of its laws) and does not punish criminals, so God's government cannot continue unless it punishes sin (which is disobedience of its laws) by destroying the sinner. Not only did the sin of Adam and Eve affect them, but they bequeathed to every one of their descendants a tendency to sin. Their's was a terrible offence against God's love for them, and they deserved to lose the life and happiness which they had abused. This is stern justice; and God is just. He had warned them, and they had disregarded His warning.

However, God is not only just; He is also loving and merciful. Yet He cannot allow His love to bring His justice to nought. Here was the problem of the ages: How could God deal out justice to man by destroying him for disobedience, and yet save man from destruction because He loved him? The three members of the Godhead worked together to solve this baffling problem. And they worked out a plan which would save sinful man from eternal death—if man would be sorry for his sin and accept of the plan—and at the same time satisfy the claims of justice. The plan is as follows:

The Way of Sin

That the demands of justice might be met, the desire to sin, and the curse of sin which is death, would be allowed to remain in man. Adam and Eve would therefore begin to die as soon as they sinned, and their descendants as soon as they were born,—that is, would begin to grow old and weak and be subject to disease.[2] And all would at last cease to breathe, and their bodies would return to dust. So man would die the just death of the sinner.

Satan, who had tempted man to sin, would be permitted with his evil angels to continue here on the earth and to lead all men whom he could into sin, to show to the whole



The priest ministering in the sanctuary of old.

universe in process of time just what the final results of his form of government would be. He would be given the rights of a usurper, and would rule this world with a sufficiently free hand to try out his system of rulership. But, being only a created being himself, he would have no power to create life.

Man's Saviour

Meanwhile, that person of the Godhead known as the Son would give His own life to save man's life. He would be able to do this because He Himself had never sinned, had life in Himself, and could create life. He, who was sinless, could pay the penalty for man, who was sinful, by suffering death in man's stead. Then, because He was sinless and not subject to death, death could not hold Him. He would rise from the dead, and with His life-giving power cause man also to rise from the dead, and would give everlasting life to man.

Thus justice and mercy would both be exercised, and neither would be defeated by the other.

In order to pay the full penalty of man's sin, the Son would not only die as man would have to die, but would live as man would have to live, and yet not sin. To accomplish these two objects, the Godhead planned that the Son should come down to this world and live the life of man here, being subject to all the temptations, trials, and sufferings that man has.[3] By the working of an amazing miracle He would be born of a woman as are all men, and would grow from babyhood to manhood. In order to be a perfect Saviour for any and every man, He would have to live as man lives; and He would have to suffer as much as, or more than, any man has ever suffered.

This meant that He would have to wait before coming

to earth, till Satan would have plenty of time to bring this world, and man in it, to the very worst condition possible. The Son would have to be born under the most adverse circumstances, and must have practically everything against him, as some men have. As we know now, He waited about four thousand years after Adam first sinned before this opportune time came.[4]

The Godhead made provision for those people who would live and die before the Son's coming as a babe. His death would suffice for all, from the very first man. He would be slain for everyone, "from the foundation of the world."[5] Every generation had its prophet or prophets, who told the world about the wonderful plan to save mankind from everlasting death.[6] The plan provided that every person who wanted to profit by it could turn to God by prayer, ask for and receive forgiveness for all past sins, and by faith in God receive power to keep from sinning.[7] It was only by accepting of the sacrifice of the Son in his behalf that he could be saved.[8] Because the Son was anointed, or set apart, to carry out this plan, He was thenceforth known as Messiah (Hebrew for anointed) or Christ (Greek for anointed) or Jesus (which means Saviour).[9]

Satan Opposes

Naturally, Satan did not want men to be saved by this plan. He wanted men to die eternally as a result of their sins, that he might prove that God is unjust in visiting such a drastic penalty as death upon a man for only one sin, or for being born of sinful parents. He used every power he possessed to get men to sin; and soon their minds were so benumbed and blinded by evil habits and practices and the deceptions of Satan that they found it very difficult to understand God's merciful plan for them, and they often forgot

Every thought, word, and act of every human being who has ever lived has been recorded for testimony in the judgment

or ignored Him altogether in their wild efforts to satisfy the evil desires of their bodies.[10]

To help man remember the terrible results of sin, and to turn his attention constantly to God's plan of salvation, before Christ came, a certain service was given him to perform every day. He was instructed to come to God daily to confess and put away his sins, and to kill a lamb with his own hand, present its blood to God, and burn its body on an altar. The taking of the life of the lamb would not wipe out the sins of the man, but the lamb's blood was a symbol, or type, of the blood of Christ which in the future would be shed for man's sins. This sacrifice pointed forward to the coming of the Deliverer. When He would come it would be needed no more.[11]

The Judgment

God's plan of salvation for men provided further that, after Christ's death for man and His rising from the dead, He would go back to heaven—God's dwelling place—and remain there till Satan would fully demonstrate the evil of his government by the wars, disease, woes of every kind, and death, that would desolate the world.[12] Just before the end, God would sit in judgment on all mankind and would separate for eternal life all men who will have accepted the sacrifice of Christ for the taking away of their sins. All others would be condemned to eternal death.[13]

After the judgment, Christ would descend again to this earth, this time in glory as a king, would raise from their graves all who would have accepted Him and His sacrifice, and would take them to heaven for a time.[14] All wicked people would also be raised from the dead eventually, and they, with Satan and his evil angels and sin and all the results of sin—suffering, woe, death—would be destroyed

by a fire that would renovate the earth. The Godhead would create a new earth, place upon it the good people who will have been saved; and these would dwell there forevermore in righteousness, peace, and happiness. [15]

The Plan Illustrated

As God foresaw that it would be, this remarkable plan has been carried out to the letter, up to the present time. Sad to say, a very small minority of all the people who have lived on earth have accepted of God's plan for the saving of their lives from eternal death. The great majority have served Satan and have died in their sins, and are doomed to everlasting destruction by their own choice. [16]

But God has ever striven to enlighten every man about the plan, and is doing it today. [17] Anciently, when He chose the Hebrews (Israel, progenitors of modern Jews) as His peculiar people, He delivered them from bondage in Egypt (as we have related in a previous chapter) and led them to a wilderness place where they could be alone for forty years. There, to impress upon them, and the world, this great plan of salvation which we have outlined, He commanded them to build Him a "sanctuary" that He might dwell among them. This building, and the services performed in and around it, was to be an object lesson, a working out in miniature of the whole plan from beginning to end. Thus no man who ever lived could fail to understand what it meant to him. [18]

The Ancient Sanctuary

This sanctuary structure was erected by Israel exactly as God gave detailed instructions, and it was patterned after God's sanctuary, or dwelling place, in heaven. At first it was made in tent form, so that it could be moved from place to place as Israel wandered; later it was built

with stone walls at Jerusalem, their capital, when they were settled in Palestine, and then it was called the temple. [19]

Around the building there was a court, or compound. In this court was an altar on which to burn sacrifice, and a place for the priests to wash. The building itself, which represented the temple of God in heaven, was three times as long as it was wide. It had two rooms, a larger outer room twice as long as it was wide, called the holy place, and an inner room in the form of a cube called the most holy place. In the holy place was an altar on which incense was burnt to represent Christ's plea for mercy for man, ascending to



The two goats of the Day of Atonement, one representing the Redeemer, the other the destroyer.

God; a table on which fresh bread was kept to represent the daily dependence of the people on God for food; and a seven-branched candlestick with candles always burning, to represent the ever-present Spirit of God. In the most holy place was a chest called the ark, containing the law

of God written on two tables of stone, and over it a seat surmounted on either end by a golden angel; this was called the mercy seat, and between these angels the mysterious light of the presence of God shone.[20]

The Sanctuary Service

The service of the sanctuary was very interesting. The people who were sorry for their sins would come to the gate of the court, leading an unblemished lamb to represent the sinless Christ. The sinner would lay his hands on the head of the lamb and confess over it every unconfessed sin of which he was conscious; thus his sin was transferred to the lamb, or, in figure, to Christ. Then he would kill the lamb with his own hand. By this act his sin was transferred to the blood, the life, of the lamb; and some of the blood was caught by a priest and carried in to the altar of incense and placed on the horn-like projections at its corners. Thus the sin was represented as ascending with the incense,—which is the sweet fragrance of Christ's sacrifice,—and was wafted over the veil which separated the two rooms, into the most holy place where was the presence of God over the mercy seat. In this way, every day the sins of the people were represented as accumulating—being recorded in the sanctuary—before God.[21]

Then, once a year, came the awfully solemn day of atonement, the service of which represented the judgment which was to come just before the end of the world. Every man, woman, and child of the great congregation, clean in body and clothing and hoping that no sin of theirs had been left unconfessed during the year, gathered around the sanctuary. Two goats were brought, one to represent Christ and the other Satan. The first was killed, and its blood was taken by the chief priest into the most holy place, where it

was offered for the sins there. Then the priest came out, in figure carrying the sins of the people, and laid them on the head of the other goat, the "scape-goat," which represented Satan. This animal was then led into the wilderness to die. Thus Christ was represented as bearing the sins, and Satan as being punished for his part in them. This ceremony was called "the cleansing of the sanctuary." The sins that had separated God from His people were removed, and the people were *at one* with Him again. Hence this day was called the day of atonement—at-one-ment.[22]

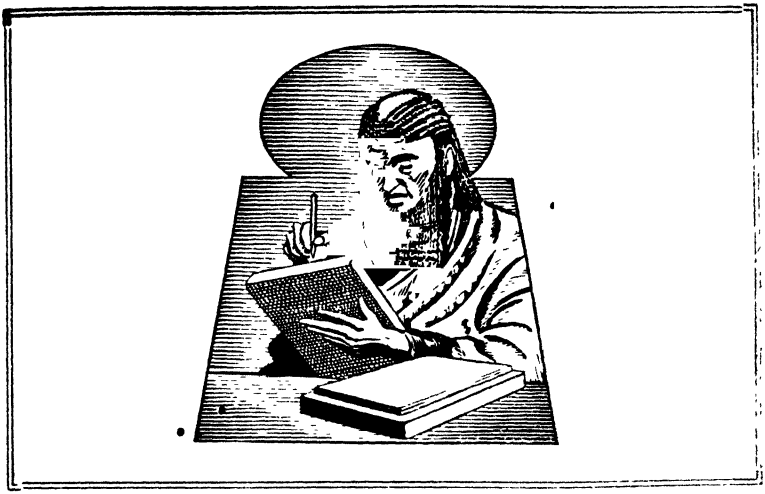
The Judgment in Figure

The likeness of this ceremony to the judgment can be seen plainly. Every case was investigated, and those whose sins were confessed and forgiven according to the plan of salvation, were declared worthy of life. Those whose sins were not confessed were cut off from Israel, and were declared worthy of death. Christ was killed for the forgiven sins; and Satan was destroyed as the instigator of sin. While this representation of the judgment came every year in ancient Israel, as an object lesson, in reality the judgment of all men comes once at the end of the world, a serious fact that concerns all of us. Naturally, we would like to know just when this judgment comes, so that we can know if we are near the end. God has not left us ignorant about this. We will follow on to know the time of the judgment of all men who have ever lived in this world.

1 I Corinthians 15:26.
2 Genesis 2:17 (margin).
3 Hebrews 4:15.
4 Galatians 4:4.
5 Hebrews 2:9; Revelation 13:8.
6 Hosea 12:13.
7 I John 1:9.
8 Acts 16:31.
9 John 1:41 (margin).
10 I Peter 5:8, 9.
11 Leviticus 4:27-30; Hebrews 9:12; 8:5; 9:23.
12 Ephesians 1:20.
13 Acts 17:30, 31; Matthew 25:31-46; Acts 16:30, 31.
14 I Thessalonians 4:14-17; John 5 26-29.
15 Revelation 20; 21:1-4.
16 Luke 13:23-30.
17 John 1:4, 7-9.
18 Exodus 25:8; Hebrews 9:1-14.
19 Exodus 25:40; 26:30; I Kings 5; 6:3
20 Exodus 25, 26, 27.
21 Leviticus 1 to 7.
22 Leviticus 16; Ephesians 5:2.



U. P. S. For a war-torn world, what is coming?



Twenty-five centuries ago they wrote on tablets of clay an account of events that are occurring today.

An Amazingly Accurate Forecast

WHENEVER God does anything which vitally concerns this world and its people, He always proclaims it beforehand by the mouths or writings of His prophets. A true prophet is a mouthpiece for God. By reading the writings of God's prophets we may secure an accurate history of the past, counsel for the present, and assurance and warning in a view of the future. All peoples may be established and may prosper by believing in divine prophets.[1]

There is another time-prophecy given by the prophet Daniel which greatly concerns the people of the world today. It is more remarkable than the 1260-year period, interpreted in Chapter Five of this book, in that it covers nearly twice as many centuries of world history, and touches on more events than those marking its beginning and end; so it can be checked more fully.

Judgment in Heaven

This prophecy is introduced by the statement, "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."[2] This carries the reader's mind back to the previous chapter, in which was described a sanctuary, or temple, where anciently God met with His chosen people. Connected with that sanctuary was a daily and yearly service, which symbolized the whole plan of God to save men from death. An annual ceremony in that service was one called atonement, which, we have shown, was a figure of God's judgment of all men in heaven, which is to occur once near the close of time. May it not be that this time prediction of twenty-three hundred days refers to the time of the judgment above, when all of our names and records must come before God for weal or woe? We shall see.

A Startling Announcement

The sanctuary here mentioned could not refer to the one erected by Israel in the wilderness, for that was worn out and came to an end ages ago. It could not refer to the temple built by Solomon at Jerusalem to replace the ancient tent sanctuary, for even at the time of Daniel that building had been completely destroyed by the armies of Nebuchadnezzar. It could not refer to the temple-sanctuary that was the pride of the Jews at the time of Christ, for it did not exist at Daniel's time, and was destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 70, never to be rebuilt. And there has been no such sanctuary anywhere in the world since that time. We are driven to the conclusion that the sanctuary referred to in the prophecy is the divine sanctuary in heaven, from which all these were patterned; and that the cleansing is the judgment near the end of the world. Momentous and startling announcement! We will follow it through, for it

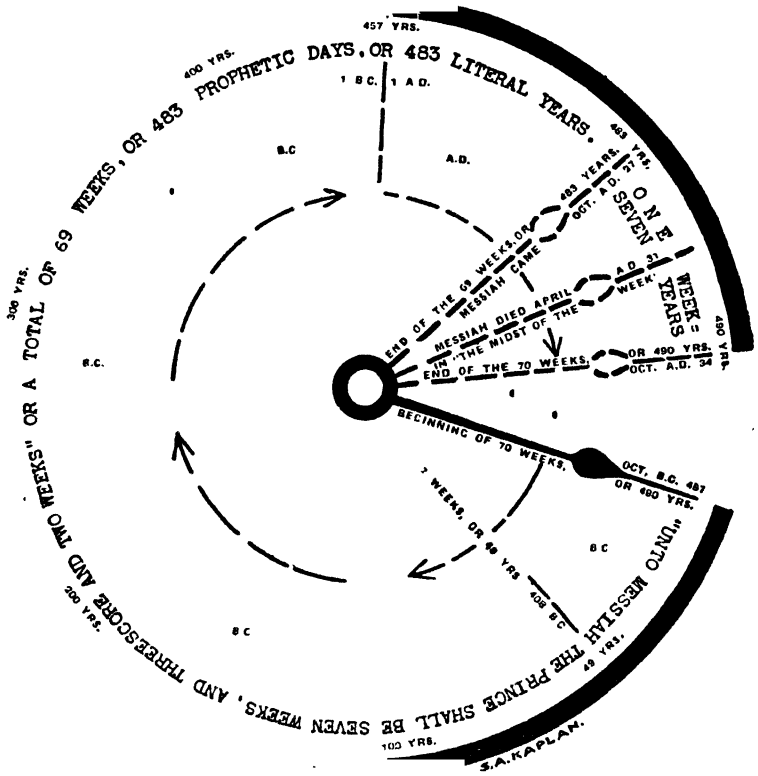
must mean. When twenty-three hundred days have passed, then judgment will begin.

When the prophet Daniel had been given this time-forecast while in vision, an angel was commissioned by God to explain its meaning. Daniel was confused about the strange statement concerning the twenty-three hundred days, so the heavenly teacher began by giving him a shorter period to deal with.[3] We might liken the method to the way a school-teacher explains how distances are measured on a school map. First the "scale of miles" in one corner of the map is explained (so many miles to the inch); then this is placed on the large map to get the distance in miles. The 2300-day period is a time-map of world events, and the angel first provided a smaller scale of days, so that the longer period might be better understood. Also, if the shorter period of events fitted exactly the then near future, we would be sure that the longer one would fit events in the far future.

A Scale of Days

The shorter "scale" of time given to Daniel reads: "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people.....Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall..... And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off.....And He shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease."[4]

From a careful study of the original language, Bible scholars give the following as the meaning of these prophetic statements: From the beginning of the rebuilding of Jeru-



Beginning with the date 457 B.C., we may trace around the circle of the centuries past definitely proved dates with their respective events, till we reach the year 34 A.D.

salem to the time when the Jews (Daniel's people) would cease to be God's chosen people (determined, cut off) would be seventy weeks (490 days). Of this seventy weeks' period, the first seven weeks (49 days) would be taken to rebuild the streets and wall of Jerusalem; from then on, sixty-two weeks (434 days) would reach to the Messiah (a Hebrew name, in English *anointed*, in Greek *Christ*); the one week (7 days) left of the seventy weeks is notable in that the Messiah (Christ) was to be killed in the middle

of it, and this event would end the sacrifice of animals for sin.

History Testifies

History says that the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem went into effect in the autumn of the year 457 B.C.[5] We also know from the records that the Jews were cut off from being God's chosen people in the year 34 A.D.[6] As may be seen by subtraction (in reality computed by addition), the number of years between these two dates is 490, reckoning from the autumn of 457 B.C. (456½ years before Christ). Our figures show 490 *years;* but the angel said it would be 490 *days.* He must have been using a day for a year, as is customary in figuring prophetic time. (See page 71.) Remembering that Daniel was given this forecast about the year 534 B.C.,[7] we sense the amazing fact that the beginning and end of this 490-year period was predicted many years before its beginning.

And this is not all. Within this period, 49 years were consumed in rebuilding the city of Jerusalem; 434 years later, in A.D. 27, Jesus Christ was anointed at His baptism (became the Messiah, anointed); and just 3½ years later, in A.D. 31 (in "the midst" of the seventieth week), He was crucified, "cut off," and thus was brought to an end the long-used type of animal sacrifice, making it no longer necessary.[8] (The accompanying chart will make all this plain.) Every event and every stated period of years of the prophecy fits exactly according to history.

The reader may now see that the coming of Jesus Christ to earth was in accordance with the age-long plan of the Godhead that Christ should give His life for lost man. The Son of the Godhead becomes the Christ of history as He takes on Himself the nature of man.

It remains for us to take the scale we have discovered and apply it to the longer, 2300-day, period. Beginning at the same date, 457 B.C., we compute that 2300 years will reach to 1844 A.D., a very modern date. Thus we are faced with the disturbing truth that judgment began in heaven about one hundred years ago. This is comparatively recent time.

It was not necessary for any event to occur on earth to mark the 1844 date, for judgment is conducted in heaven. But God never leaves the world ignorant of such an important tribunal, which eventually would try the case of everyone who ever lived. During the years immediately preceding 1844, forward-looking men in various countries of the world, each without knowing of the other, discovered from the Bible the very facts we have been presenting here, and boldly predicted that judgment would begin in 1844.

A World-Wide Religious Revival

Joseph Wolff in parts of Asia, Edward Irving in England, Laucunza in Spain, Davis and William Miller in the United States, and even little children in Sweden—all confidently proclaimed this message in the early part of the nineteenth century. The truth of impending judgment stirred the world. Millions heard it; hundreds of thousands believed it; a great religious revival resulted.

True, these human messengers of the judgment proclaimed that Christ would come back to earth in 1844. In that, they misinterpreted the Bible prophecy, which did not say that the beginning of judgment would coincide with Christ's return. The judgment must *precede* His return, since all cases must be decided before His appearing to reward those whom the judgment has found righteous and to

punish those whom the judgment has found wicked. The great message of 1844 was: "The hour of His judgment is come."[9] A great work like the judgment, in which all the billions of people who have ever lived in this world are judged in every thought, word, and act, consumes many years. Hence, the judgment which began in 1844 is not yet finished.

A Sure Prophecy

As surely as the decree to rebuild Jerusalem was issued in 457 B.C.; as surely as Christ was baptized and began His ministry in A.D. 27, and was crucified three and a half years later; as surely as God rejected His chosen people in A.D. 34,—just so surely did the final judgment of the world's people begin in 1844.

There is a realization in the hearts of every one of us, that sometimes we must settle things with the Judge who knows our inmost thoughts. We may mock at goodness and scorn fate, but mockery never changed a fact; and the fact is that right now is the supreme judgment hour of the world, of you and of me. The judgment began with Adam and Eve; it has proceeded for many decades; there is every reason to believe that it is dealing with the cases of the living. How soon will it be my turn—and yours?

1 II Chronicles 20:20.

2 Daniel 8:14.

3 Daniel 8:26, 27; 9:21-23.

4 Daniel 9:24-27.

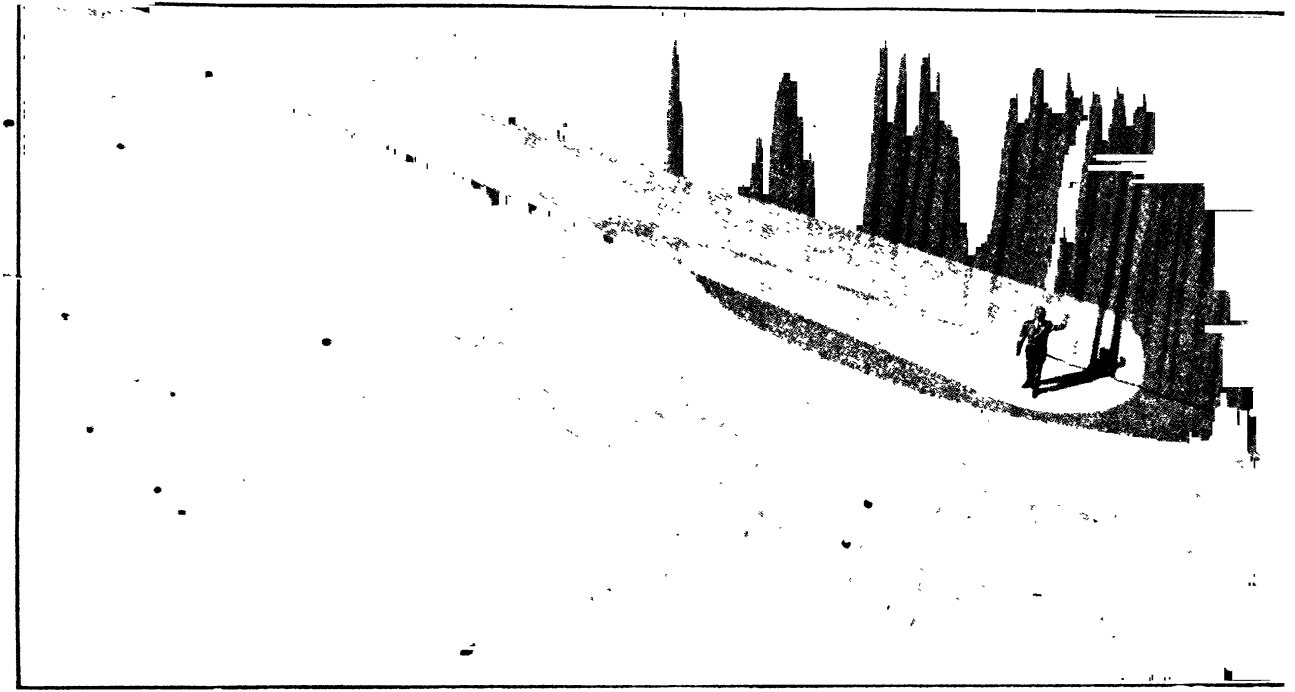
5 Ezra 7:11-26.

6 Acts 7:58 (marginal date A.D. 34); Acts 22:20, 21. In A.D. 34 the Jews were rejected and the gospel went to the Gentiles.

7 Daniel 9 (marginal date).

8 John 1:41; Matthew 3:13-17; Acts 10:38; see "Christology of the Old Testament," E. W. Hengstenberg, Vol. III, pp. 240-249, translated from the German by James Martin, B.A., Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1858.

9 Revelation 14:7.



It appeals to the dramatic in us to have one man placed in the spotlight as the man of the centuries. Who is he?



Can one hand press the button which switches on infinite power to clear the world of its woes?

The World's Man of Destiny

AS THOUGHTFUL people look out over the world as it is today, they are convinced that war-madness, disease, poverty, greed, and cruelty are plunging mankind toward a fearful abyss. Various leaders have tried, and are trying, to bring peace and happiness to wretched millions; but they have failed utterly, and are failing hopelessly. If there is one man who can rescue the world from what seems to be inevitable oblivion, he is our man of destiny. Is there a person alive who is not eagerly, anxiously, hoping for such a one to appear?

There have been men of destiny in ages past, who have turned the tide of empires, conquered continents, introduced

civilizations, freed enslaved peoples, established justice—and thereby have set their names on high. We think of Asoka, Xerxes, Alexander the Great, the Caesars, Napoleon Bonaparte, and many other illustrious names. And today such men as Mahatma Gandhi, Chiang Kai-shek, Lenin, Hitler, and Mussolini, shine in the galaxy of men of destiny for one reason or another. But all these, amid their hopes, have acknowledged their impotency with regard to making a peaceful, happy world; and we look for another and a greater man of destiny.

Great Religions Anticipate Him

It is remarkable that all the chief religions of the world teach of a future golden age, an age of light and truth, and of a Divine One who will usher in this better day. Thus we proclaim nothing new when we announce a coming Man of destiny; yet it *is* new, for the world seems to have lost sight of the fact that this age, when truth is in eclipse, will be followed by a breaking forth of truth such as the world has never seen.

Hindus believe that the present era is a "black age," or age of untruth. They anticipate the "age of truth," when a "sinless incarnation" will dispel darkness. They look forward to the tenth, and last, Avatar of Vishnu, which will destroy evil and bring a golden age. They believe that Vishnu will "be revealed in the sky, seated on a white horse, with a drawn sword like a comet, for the final destruction of the wicked, and for the renovation of all creation and the restoration of the age of purity."

Islam teaches that the dead will be resurrected at some future time, and after that there will be a restoration of the paradise which Adam and Eve lost. This is called the "Garden of Eternity, which God has promised as a recom-

pense to all who have feared Him. All true believers will dwell therein forever."[2]

Buddhists hold that "the present race will continue to deteriorate, righteousness will gradually disappear; injustice, deviation from the path of truth, covetousness, unnatural lust, cruelty, will continue to increase.....The present race will be the nucleus of the new race that will be reborn." This will be brought about by the return of the "Lord of Love, the Buddha Maitreya," who will lead the "new race" to a "new earth."[3]

The Parsi belief is that our present age will end in overwhelming catastrophe. Soshyas, the last Saviour, will raise the dead, judge all mankind, cast the wicked into hell, and then make a clean universe and regenerate the world."[4]

The One Able Man

The reader is urged to an unprejudiced consideration of the only One who can stem the current that threatens to engulf civilization. His antecedents, His rights, His claims, and His experience, challenge the serious attention of every man who realizes that mankind is running amuck, and who is at his wit's end to know what to do about it. It is unthinkable that a loving and omnipotent God would allow terrible catastrophe to hang over our heads, and not show us the way to escape it.

We recommend an investigation of the Member of the Godhead who was commissioned ultimately to save men from sin and its resultant woe and death. We may expect that no other man in history would attract more attention, be more talked and written about, be capable of inspiring more faith and stirring more opposition, and loom larger in the affairs of men; and we would not be disappointed.

That Man is Christ, best known to history as the founder of Christianity.

Christ came down to live as man, that He might save men. Christ did not originate at the dawn of Christianity. The religion which He taught was as old, and older, than the creation of man. The Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures), acknowledged by historians as long antedating the advent of Christ, contains no less than fifty prophecies of Christ's life on earth and of the work He would do.

Forecasts of Christ's First Coming

Hundreds, and even thousands, of years before He appeared in Palestine, these Scriptures had predicted that He would be born of a virgin in the town of Bethlehem of Judea,[5] and, as we have shown in a previous chapter, would come in the very year long foretold;[6] would come in the line of David, Israel's greatest king;[7] would be preceded by a messenger;[8] would visit Egypt in babyhood;[9] would be meek, tender, compassionate, zealous, silent under abuse;[10] would teach in parables, work miracles;[11] would be rejected by His brethren, hated by the Jews, betrayed by a friend, forsaken by His disciples, sold for thirty pieces of silver, spit upon and scourged;[12] would have His hands and feet nailed to a cross, be given gall and vinegar to drink, have lots cast for His clothes;[13] would die of a broken heart, and not one of His bones would be broken;[14] would be buried with the rich, would not see corruption: would rise from the dead, and would ascend to heaven.[15]

All these specifications, and many others, came to pass exactly as prophesied, as the details of His well-known life and death attest. Certainly, with such abundant evidence before him, any sane and sensible man will be ready to hear with more than ordinary interest what this Man of

destiny had to say about Himself; and more particularly what He said about His future plans and the future of men and women like you and me, who live now and want to live always.

Christ Will Come Again

That which concerns us most is the awakening fact that He promised that He would *come back to this earth again.* Here are His exact words: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, *I will come again,* and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." [16]

What a comforting, heartening promise; and it is given to you and me, now. We need not go down to destruction and eternal death. His arm is long enough, His hand is strong enough, His heart loving enough, to save from the pit of ruin everyone who wants to be saved. [17]

Christ was not the first Bible prophet, nor the only one, who foretold His second coming to earth. In the old Hebrew Scriptures, His second advent was as fully predicted as His first. Enoch, the seventh man from Adam, said that He would come to execute judgment; [18] Job, the wise man of Uz, prophesied that, as a Redeemer, He would stand in the latter day upon the earth; [19] Abraham, the father of the faithful, looked forward to His establishing a city of eternal foundations; [20] David, the king, forecast His coming with fire to gather His saints; [21] Isaiah, prophet of the latter days, spoke of His coming to reward the righteous; [22] Daniel, the seer, said that Michael would stand up in His kingdom. [23] And, contemporary with Christ, John prophesied that He would come in the clouds; [24] Paul proclaimed

that He would come the second time unto salvation;[25] and angels from heaven told His lonely followers that "this same Jesus" would return as they had seen Him go.[26]

Thus His coming will not be in secret, or in spirit only, but will be in person, and as visible "as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west."[27] There would be "false Christs and false prophets" who would precede His coming;[28] but there would be no danger of those being deceived who would study and believe the description of the exact manner and the approximate time in which He would appear.[29]

As to the time of His second advent, Christ made it very plain that no man may know the day nor the hour. But we may know when it is very near, "even at the doors," as we know that the time for fruit is near when the leaves appear on fig trees.[30] Anyone who claims to be Christ, but who does not come from the clouds where every eye shall see him, is a false Christ. And everyone who prophesies the exact time of Christ's return is a false prophet.[31] Turn a deaf ear to him.

What About the Time?

One day Christ and His followers were passing by the large and beautiful temple (sanctuary) in the city of Jerusalem. They called His attention to the enormous stones in the building, some of them seventy feet long. To these men their great and glorious temple would last forever. But Christ said sadly, "There shall not be left here one stone upon another."[32]

They were greatly surprised and pained. He had told them that He would leave them, and the world, but that He would come back again sometime, when this sinful earth would be destroyed. They thought He must mean that

Jerusalem and their beloved temple would be broken down then? So they asked Him, "When shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?"

In replying to their anxious questions, Christ prophesied events from that time down through the centuries to our own day, and beyond. His disciples had connected the fall of Jerusalem with the end of the world. But Jerusalem fell, and Christ's prediction concerning it was fulfilled only forty years after the day He spoke. The Jews rebelled against the Romans who ruled over them, and a Roman army utterly demolished Jerusalem and the temple in the year 70 A.D. Over a million Jews were killed, and not one stone of the city was left on another, the place being ploughed to indicate its complete destruction.[34]

However, the reply of the Master was occupied almost wholly with events in the far future from their day. He spoke of a "great tribulation" of God's people, "such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time."[35] No doubt this was to be the persecution which would "wear out the saints of the most High," spoken of by Daniel the prophet and referred to in Chapter Five. The reader will recall that the Roman Papacy was to persecute the true church for a period of 1260 years, ending in 1798.

Christ said of this period of persecution, "Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."[36] And history corroborates this statement in a remarkable way. Twenty-five or thirty years before 1798, a series of events—such as the coming to power of Protestantism against the Papacy, the opening of America as an asylum for all who were oppressed religiously, and the advance of liberalism—lent their influence to stop intolerance. Many who



The stars fell in the island of Ceylon also.

were imprisoned for conscience sake were released. The days of persecution were "shortened."

The Dark Day

Then Christ foretold a number of "signs" which would immediately precede His second coming; and He told almost exactly when they would begin. For He said, "In those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light."[37] Now, within the days, and after the tribulation ceased, would place this sign between 1775 and 1798. And, exactly true to the forecast, on May 19, 1780, came the strangest and most remarkable unnatural darkness of history. Perhaps because the attention of mankind was then being centred on the New World, America, this sign occurred there. Other Bible prophecies also speak of it.

Nothing like this famous "dark day" has ever been known. By noon the darkness was total; fowls went to roost, and all nature settled down as for night. It was not caused by volcanoes or forest fires; nor by an eclipse of the sun, for the moon was on the opposite side of the earth from the sun. Said astronomers of that time, "The true causes of this remarkable phenomenon are not known."[38] The night following, the moon gave no light, though it was at its full.

The Falling Stars

The next sign also appeared in order. Christ said, "and the stars shall fall from heaven."[39] On the night of November 13, 1833, occurred in New England, and far out at sea, a most amazing star shower. The meteors fell like rain, or "thick as snowflakes." Stars (meteors) often fall, but nothing to equal this shower was ever seen before or since. Thousands of falling meteors were visible at the

same time, and the shower continued for hours. Bible students at that time called to the attention of the world the fact that Christ had said such a wonder would mark His near coming.[40]

Not so copious a star shower, but truly a remarkable one, occurred in the Eastern Hemisphere in the year 1866, on November 13 again. H. H. Jessup, D.D., who was living



Out of the ether comes news of stirring events from the most distant places.

in Syria at that time, reports the alarm shown by the Moslems in that country on the occurrence of this phenomenon. He said, "The Mohammedans gave their call to prayers from the minarets (at 1 A.M.) and the common people were

in terror."[41] A notable falling of stars was seen in the island of Ceylon also.

Astronomers concluded that the wonder was natural and regular, and that it would recur every thirty-three years, so predicted another shower in 1899 and in 1932. But in both these years their predictions failed.

"Wars and Rumours of Wars"

The Master went on to emphasize another herald of the end: "Ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars," "distress of nations, with perplexity."[42] Does anyone need to be told, in view of the terrible slaughter of human beings we are seeing in Europe and Asia, and other parts of the world at times, that this forecast is being fulfilled before our eyes with a business-like cruelty and ruthlessness such as the world has never before seen? We stand appalled, and petrified with fear.

Some may say at this point, "There have always been bloody wars. How can strife among nations be a sign of the end?" But beware! One of Christ's disciples, Peter, who himself afterward became a prophet of God, made another pointed prophecy for our times. Hear him: "There shall come in the last days scoffers,....saying, Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."[43] There are plenty of scoffers today. They themselves are signs of the last days; we had better not join them, for they will not be ready for Him when He comes.

The truth is, all things do not continue as they were from the beginning. Let us not make Christ's words meaningless. He must have meant that wars would be in some ways radically different in the last days. And they are. They are more frequent, engaged in by more nations at a

time, exceedingly more expensive, fought by infinitely larger armies, more cruel, more deadly, more widespread, and more indecisive. They are different in that they are often fought without being declared (wars called by some other name), finished with neither side the profiting victor, and terminated by peace treaties made to be violated. Never before have whole populations taken part in, and been endangered by, wars as now. Every last iota of humanity and wealth is conscripted. War has become a devilish science, a fiendish business. Said Mr. Winston Churchill, the British Prime Minister, writing of the "first World War": It "was different from all ancient wars,....and from all modern wars.....All the horrors of all the ages were brought together."[44] And we can expect yet more horrible wars in the future.

Distress and Perplexity

We have forced upon us every day the fact that nations are distressed, with perplexity. Statesmen of the great powers are driven to distraction because they do not know the way to act. It is one thing to be distressed; but worse to be perplexed over our distress. A man who is hungry is in distress; but if he has money in his pocket and there is a restaurant near, he is not perplexed about his hunger. Nations have always been in distress at one time and another; but there has been some avenue of relief. Now they all stoutly profess to want peace, yet war overwhelms them.

"The sea and the waves roaring," continued the Master prophet, as He listed the signs of His return, "men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." As men view disasters by land and sea; witness the hectic race for arma-

ments; see the pledged word of nations broken and treaties torn up like "scraps of paper"; watch a helpless people like the Jews inhumanly persecuted; realize that moral standards are being trailed in the mud, and that no one can be trusted—they are gripped with unreasoning fears. Nerves are wrecked; suicides multiply; woe triumphs.

This is a distressing picture; but that it is a realistic portrayal of the world today, no observer will deny. If anything, it is not vivid enough to fit the reality. But, thanks be to God, the Master did not leave His followers and us with such a heart-rending outlook. Beyond it all is the bright side. These ominous events are at once a sign that Satan and sin have just about reached their limit in playing havoc with the world, and also a sign that Christ is soon to bring all of its misery to an end by His appearing in power and glory.

The conditions foreshadowed in Christ's prophecy have appeared and are appearing now before our bewildered eyes. He has told us what they mean; they are harbingers of the end. He alone can save us. He is our Man of destiny.

1 "Religious Thought and Life of India," p. 1, Monier Williams.
2 "Sura Repentance," 60 73; "Sura the Cave," 52:105, 106; "The Koran."
3 "The Life and Teachings of Buddha," Rev. Agrika Dharampala, G. H. Natisan and Co., pp. 81-83.
4 Dinkard, Vol. 5, p. 352, "Zoroastrian Theology," N. N. Dhalla, Ph.D., pp. 283-293.
5 Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2.
6 Daniel 8:14; 9:24, 25.
7 Matthew 1:1.
8 Malachi 3:1.
9 Hosea 11:1.
10 Isaiah 53.
11 Psalms 78:2; Matthew 13:35; Malachi 4:2; Isaiah 61:1.
12 Isaiah 53.3; Psalms 41:9; Zechariah 13:7; 11:12; Isaiah 50:6.
13 Psalms 22:16; 69 21; 22:18.
14 Psalms 69 20; Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12; John 19 36.
15 Isaiah 53 9; Psalms 16:10; Isaiah 26: 19; Psalms 68:18.
16 John 14:1-3.
17 Hebrews 7:25.
18 Jude 14, 15.
19 Job 19:25.
20 Hebrews 11:10.
21 Psalms 50:3.
22 Isaiah 40.10.
23 Daniel 12.1.
24 Revelation 1:7.
25 Hebrews 9:28.
26 Acts 1.11.
27 Matthew 24:27.
28 Matthew 24:24.
29 Matthew 24 25-27.
30 Matthew 24 33.
31 Matthew 24:36.
32 Matthew 24:2.
33 Matthew 24:3.
34 Matthew 24:15-20.
35 Matthew 24:21.
36 Matthew 24:22.
37 Mark 13:24; Matthew 24:29.
38 "Webster's Dictionary," edition 1883, p. 1604. Article "Dark Day."
39 Matthew 24:29.
40 "The American Encyclopædia," edition 1881, Art, "Meteors."
41 "Fifty-three Years in Syria," M. M. Jessup, D.D., Vol. 1, pp. 316, 317.
42 Matthew 24:6; Luke 21:25, 26.
43 II Peter 3:3 4.
44 "World Crisis," Vol. 1, p. 10.



Press Photo Agent

The great cities are ill prepared for the destruction that impends.



In the realm of chemistry, astounding miracles are being performed every day.

Signs of the End of the Age

SO EAGER and anxious is God that all men of whatever tribe or nation shall know of a surety that Christ is coming back to this world in the near future, that He sends no meagre signs and warnings of the event. They are abundant. They are so vivid or violent that not even the most ignorant may fail to understand their portent; they are so many that no one can possibly miss seeing most of them; they are so widespread that even the most remote of peoples are aware of them as omens. We will note other signs which are not described in the previous chapter. No man who has ever lived will be able to reproach God and say, "I did not see the signs."

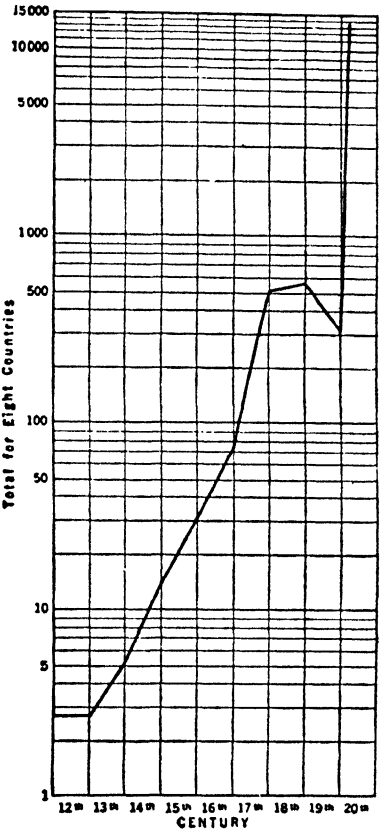
Great Earthquakes

In enumerating the signs of His return, Christ said, "Great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences."[1] Since earthquakes, famines, and epidemics have occurred as long ago as history records, there would be no point to such catastrophes as signs unless in some ways they are distinctive. Note, then, that these three plagues of mankind have been much more *frequent,* much more *destructive,* and much more *widespread* in recent years. In fact, the greatest war, the greatest earthquake, the greatest famine, and the greatest pestilence in history, all have come since 1914.

During the first century of the Christian era there were 15 earthquakes recorded. During the next thirteen centuries, 115 quakes occurred. Beginning with the fourteenth century, accurate records were kept; and this is what they tell: Fourteenth century, 137 earthquakes; fifteenth, 174; sixteenth, 253; seventeenth, 373; eighteenth, 640; nineteenth, 2,119 (three times as many as in the eighteenth). In the present century very destructive quakes average one a year. Thus earthquakes have increased enormously in frequency both before and after the invention of the seismograph, an instrument which registers earthquakes.

Also increase in destructiveness is appalling: the Lisbon earthquake in 1755, killing 50,000; the Messina (Italy) quake, killing 164,000; the Kansu (China) quake, killing 200,000; the Japanese quake, killing 306,000. And we recall vividly the terribly destructive shakings of more recent times; of Quetta, Bihar, Chili, New Zealand, Greece, Bulgaria, Turkey. During the last fifty years there have been more, and more severe, earthquakes than in the eight centuries previous.

Observes a writer who saw the Kansu quake: "Likely no other earthquake in scientific annals ever changed the physical geography of the affected region to the extent of the Kansu cataclysm.... Mountains that moved in the night, landslides that eddied like waterfalls, crevasses that swallowed houses, camel trains and villages that were swept away under a rising sea of loose earth, were a few of the subsidiary occurrences that made the earthquake in Kansu one of the most appalling catastrophes of history."[2]



Graph showing the remarkable increase in the number of earthquakes during the past seven hundred years.

McClure's Magazine commented thus on the Japan disaster: "The gates of hell swung open....and for two days the demons of destruction worked their will with all the elements of earth, fire, and water. Death in a hundred forms stalked abroad. The solid earth turned fluid. The sea invaded the land. Without one second of warning the blow fell that swept 300,000 people over the brink of eternity, that destroyed a majority of the buildings over 3,000 square miles of the most densely populated sections of the world."

Scientists have said that earthquakes could happen only in volcanic regions, such as around the rim of the Pacific Ocean. But Christ said that in our day they would occur in "divers places." And present records show that there is not a spot on earth immune from them. Scoffers tell us that they may be explained by the earth cooling, and their frequency by the fact that more delicate instruments are now used to detect them. But we have not counted every little earth tremor, but only the great quakes, which can be felt without instruments. And because these phenomena can be explained scientifically does not subtract from the fact that they are signs sent of God.

Distressing Famines

Famines are caused by local crop failures, poverty, high prices, and poor transportation. There is always plenty of food in many parts of the world, so much in some countries in certain years that millions of tons of it are destroyed in order to keep prices up. The earth yields more than enough to feed all its people well, and more than ever now. No doubt there is more abundant charity in our generation than previously. And transportation facilities are phenomenally better in this age than ever before. Then why have the greatest famines in history occurred within the last few years?

In China, since the first World War, 13,000,000 people were without food at one time, and one to three million of them starved to death. Poor transportation and meagre means of getting food to them from the more prosperous sections was one of its causes. But in Russia transportation facilities were sufficient, yet, says the eye-witness Nansen, the Russian famine soon after the World War was "the most appalling that has ever happened in the recorded his-

tory of man." Whatever the explanation, it is true that unprecedented and most destructive famines have devastated the earth in late years.

Death-Dealing Epidemics

Deadly diseases also take an increasing toll of lives. It is commonly known that India averages a million deaths a year from plague alone. Cholera, smallpox, and lesser diseases carry off annually millions more. Other countries also have their characteristic illnesses. Explanations come that each people has its weaknesses, and that many are immune from certain plagues. As if to answer this explanation, which does not explain, the influenza epidemic went everywhere throughout the earth. It is said that only the islands of St. Helena and Mauritius escaped its ravages. It was not carried from place to place by germ carriers. It sprang up simultaneously and spontaneously in the most remote districts as well as in populous centres.

The "flu" epidemic during and after the first World War took twelve million lives in India alone, and twenty million throughout the world. Many more died of it than from all the deaths caused directly by the War. And it took the healthiest people. Cancer, heart ailments, tuberculosis, "captains of the men of death," lead an army of diseases which slaughter millions annually, and new diseases are being discovered by the score. Infant mortality has been lowered, but old age has not been lengthened. And all this in face of the fact that medical facilities, skill, and knowledge have made giant strides in the past three decades in the conquering of disease. There is no explanation for this contradictory situation, except in the light of the fulfilment of divine prophecy.

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"Lovers of pleasure" go sports mad. Stupendous crowds gather at a football stadium.

Social Evils

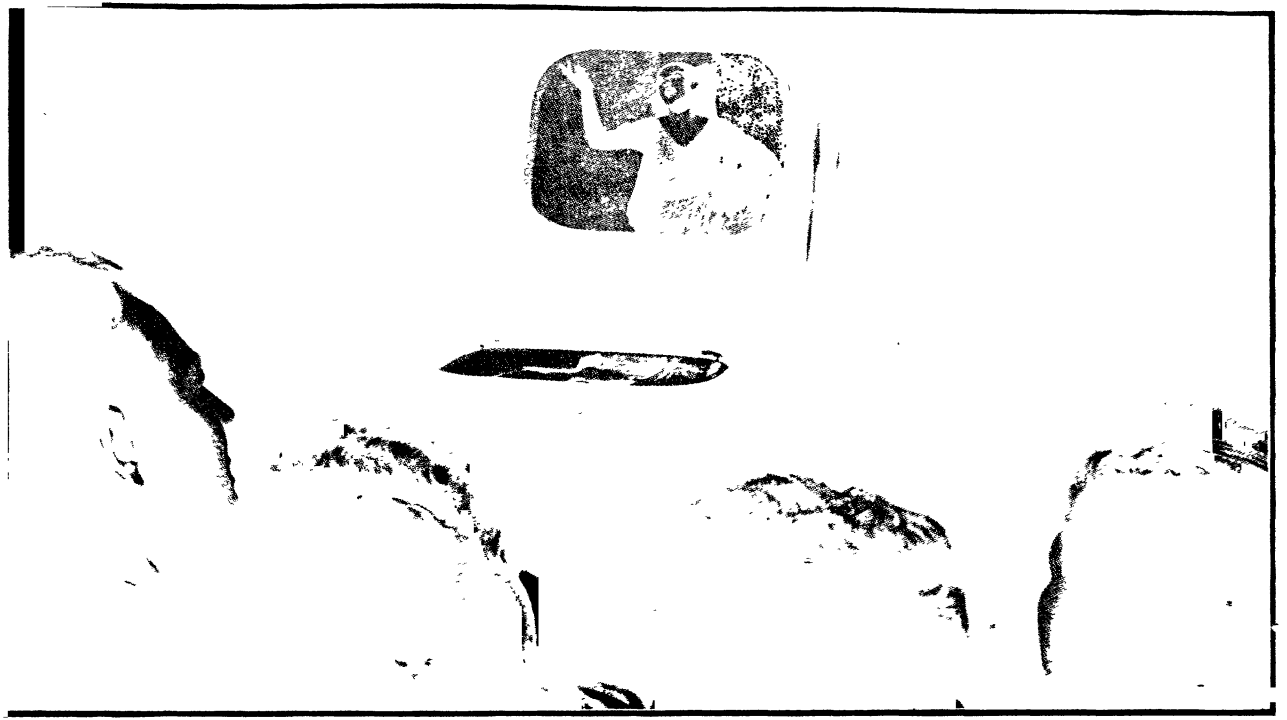
Social and religious decadence is also cited as a sign of the times. A Biblical writer emphasizes this portent in these graphic words: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves."[3] Then follows a list of eighteen outstanding evils which will characterize these "last days." We need but to look about us to be sure that our day is meant. And all these evils are to be seen among professing religionists, Christians included, "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." Let us notice some of the sins of the supposedly pious. Selfishness is the root of all of them.

"*Boasters*," taking credit to self for success, and blaming failures on fate, luck, or "Providence."

"*Proud*," haughty. Pride of race, of colour, or opinion, of social position, of appearance and dress, of class.

"*Blasphemers*," no regard for the sacred things of life, violent abuse of neighbours, taking God's name in vain; increasing practice even among women of the use of oaths and filthy language.

"*Disobedient*." Children are disobedient to their parents as never before. Honour and respect for father and mother are departing from youthful minds and hearts. Parents are largely to blame for this laxity, for they have loosened discipline in the home. There is a theory of education in vogue to the effect that children should be allowed "self-expression," which works out to letting them do as they please. The wide acceptance of the theory of evolution is partly responsible. If man has animal origin, why blame the child if he reverts to his beastly nature at times? Disobedience in home and school paves the way



Not only do we have sound motion pictures, but we may see and hear people and events from a distance by television.

for disobedience to government, and leads to crime, outlawry and anarchy.

"*Without natural affection.*" Love is departing from the associations of men, and hatred is taking its place. Men become tough, callous, and cruel. Parents are forsaken, children cast out; divorce is on an alarming increase as marriage vows are broken and "free love" abounds. Certain nations are advocating illegitimacy. Womankind is losing its traditional virtue as it adopts the moral standards of men.

"*Truce-breakers.*" Man's word is no longer as good as his bond. He makes promises with a mental reservation, and breaks them with impunity. Nations make solemn treaties and treat them like "scraps of paper." "Truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter."

"*False Accusers.*" Corruption and bribery and false witnesses in political and judicial circles. Political offices bought and sold. "Justice standeth afar off."[4]

"*Incontinent.*" Intemperance rampant. Alcoholic intoxication on the increase. No public interest in prohibition. Millions of addicts enslaved by drugs and narcotics. Men and women who smoke a hundred cigarettes a day, and can't stop, are common.

"*Despisers of those that are good.*" It is becoming popular to hate goodness in others. No distinction is made between good and evil. An easy belief that it does not make much difference what a man does just so his intentions are good, is sapping the moral backbone of whole communities. Standards are trailing in the mire. The exact opposite of a good moral requirement is held to be just as good.

"Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." People have gone pleasure mad. They try to drown their sorrows in gaiety, but only add to them. Nine theatres are erected to every church or temple. In one country Rs. 600,00,00,000 annually is spent on cosmetics alone. Abnormal excitement is the order of the day. Gambling has become a craze, games a mania. Waterproof playing cards are in demand so that addicts need not desist while bathing. In some countries half the population attend cinemas every day if they can possibly afford it.

Heart Religion Needed

Men want the advantages of religion without making any sacrifice for them; they want the harvest, but refuse to sow the seed. But religion as a profession, a form, has no power to save men from evil and its results. Civilization, culture, refinement, education, manners—all are inadequate to change a selfish heart. And unless there is a transformation of individual hearts, there can be no international peace, no political freedom, no economic prosperity, no social equity, no real happiness.

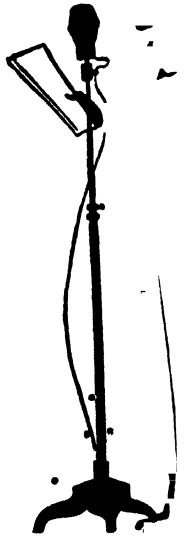
We do not call attention to these many crying evils and their dire harvest in order to scare the reader, but to warn. Like the odour of the cobra, they tell us that danger is near. Not only are these flaunted sins signs that Christ is coming soon, but they are also telling evidences that His advent is needed if our slipping civilization is to be saved from destruction.

The appearance of Christ in the clouds of heaven is the only hope of a lost world. And this long array of omens directs our bewildered minds to that event. When approaching the Bombay harbour on a ship one dark night, I was greatly confused by the many lights, large and small,

red and green, which cast their rays out over the water. So I asked an officer how navigators got any guidance from so many and so varied lights. Then he pointed out to me that when his ship came into such a position that certain lights were in direct line, they knew the course to be straight ahead.

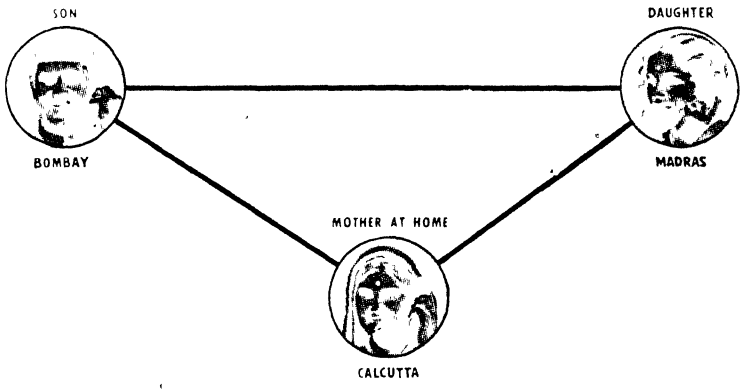
It is so with the sign-lights which direct mankind, the benighted mariner, on the seemingly uncharted waters of the ocean of modern life. When the numerous and differing portents line up before our confused eyes, we may know that the heavenly haven is near, that the course is plain, and that Christ is the Pilot of our bark, if we will have Him.

1 Luke 21:11.
2 "National Geographic Magazine."
3 II Timothy 3:1-5.
4 Isaiah 59:14.





The gigantic question of our industrial age. What does it mean?



In amazing ways undreamed of a century ago, the telephone brings the world together.

Ours the World's Golden Age

WE ARE wont to boast that our age is the greatest ever recorded in the annals of time. And this is no idle boast, springing from egotism born of our achievements. There can be no doubt that if the ancients could rise from their graves and see the marvels of our time, they would be bewildered and amazed, and would agree that no golden age of the past has ever come anywhere near equalling this. We who have approached it gradually through the reading of history and the observation of its development, are ourselves astonished beyond measure. The dictionaries have no adequate words to describe its supergreatness, and the age will have to add another wonder by producing a suitable descriptive vocabulary.

So many marvels have come so rapidly that we regard them almost as commonplace. We have been surprised at so many wonders that we have ceased to be surprised from

sheer weariness of the ever new. This incredible array of inventions and discoveries palls on our senses, and we tire of the shocking and the upsetting.

But this very surfeit of the noteworthy is apt to dull our perceptions as to their significance. History's really breath-taking wonders have not been distributed fairly evenly down through the centuries, but practically all of them have fallen *within the last hundred years.*

Take the most conservative estimate of the age of the world (that of the translators of the Bible), which is about six thousand years. (If the estimates of science are taken—millions and hundreds of millions of years—the wonders of this particular age become that much more wonderful.) But even with the conservative figure, nearly all the outstanding discoveries and inventions of history have been concentrated into the *last one sixtieth* of the earth's existence. What a superlative marvel is this! We will take note:

For fifty-nine centuries all that men could develop in the way of transportation facilities, was man- and bullock- and horse-drawn wheeled vehicles. Their speed was thought phenomenal if it reached ten or fifteen miles an hour. Any greater speed was considered foolhardy, and was prohibited by law. Slow-moving sail boats ploughed the seas, and took months to go from India to England. But within the latest one hundred years, what has come?

Rapid Transportation and Communication

We think little of driving motor cars at the rate of seventy and eighty miles an hour along a cement road as smooth as glass. Luxurious trains, steam and electrical, plunge along at one hundred miles an hour, and have reached the speed of a mile in thirty seconds. Not to be outdone, "the fastest man on land," John Cobb of England, has raced

368.85 miles an hour in his "Thunderbolt" motor car on the Salt Flats of Utah, in America. This is a mile in about nine and three-quarter seconds. An Italian, Franscesco Agello, has reached the speed of 440 miles an hour in his seaplane, which is a mile in about eight and one-fifth seconds.

Long aeroplane flights are made at five and a half miles a minute. A boat has travelled 126 miles an hour. We can fly across large continents in two days, and passengers may now fly around the world in less than a month. All these records will be broken soon. Fliers aspire to rise above the air surrounding the earth and speed so fast that they will keep pace with the sunrise—a thousand miles an hour. Who will say they cannot do it?

And then there is the speed of communication. Our great-grandparents could at best signal with lights or bonfires or drums over short distances, and letter post was unknown or was a matter of pony carriage. Then, an invention landslide; within a few decades came low-priced postage on letters carried swiftly on train, ship, and airship; telephone, telegraph, wireless broadcasts, television, teletype, which tell everything to the remotest corners of the earth in a few minutes of time. Isolated villagers, after the day's work is finished, sit around a wireless receiver and hear what is happening at the moment in London and New York. It is marvellous beyond our comprehension.

Nearly all of what are known as conveniences have been afforded us in comparatively recent times. And the luxury of yesterday has become the necessity of today. Notice the frequent, comfortable and safe, swift and cheap travel facilities, on bus, car, train, ship, tram, lift, and aeroplane. Travel agencies, guides, sumptuous hotels and

waiting rooms, air-conditioning, all make long journeys periods of pleasure.

Comforts and Conveniences

Inexpensive newspapers, magazines, and books, beautifully and profusely illustrated in colours, make the acquiring of information an entertainment. Sun hats, rubber coats and all rubber goods, shoes that fit, and seasonal and healthful clothing to please the eye, cement walks, paved roads, public parks and playgrounds, and a hundred other conveniences, are modern improvements calculated to make life more worth living. But we take them as a matter of course.

The thousand and one applications of electricity, harnessing the lightning, are noteworthy. We have electric refrigerators which pay for themselves by keeping foods and other commodities from spoiling, electric washing machines, sewing machines, toasters, cookers, ironers, curlers, heaters, grinders, mixers; in short, electric power for every use. Electricity has revolutionized living.

Homes, shops, factories, public buildings, trains, and even circus tents, are now being air-conditioned. Without windows, and with closed doors, these rooms are supplied by electrical power appliances with purified air at the right temperature and humidity, with diffused lighting, making a perfect condition for health and comfort. You may now travel across India in June or January in a sealed compartment where a perfect atmosphere inspires one to think of paradise.

Era of Machines

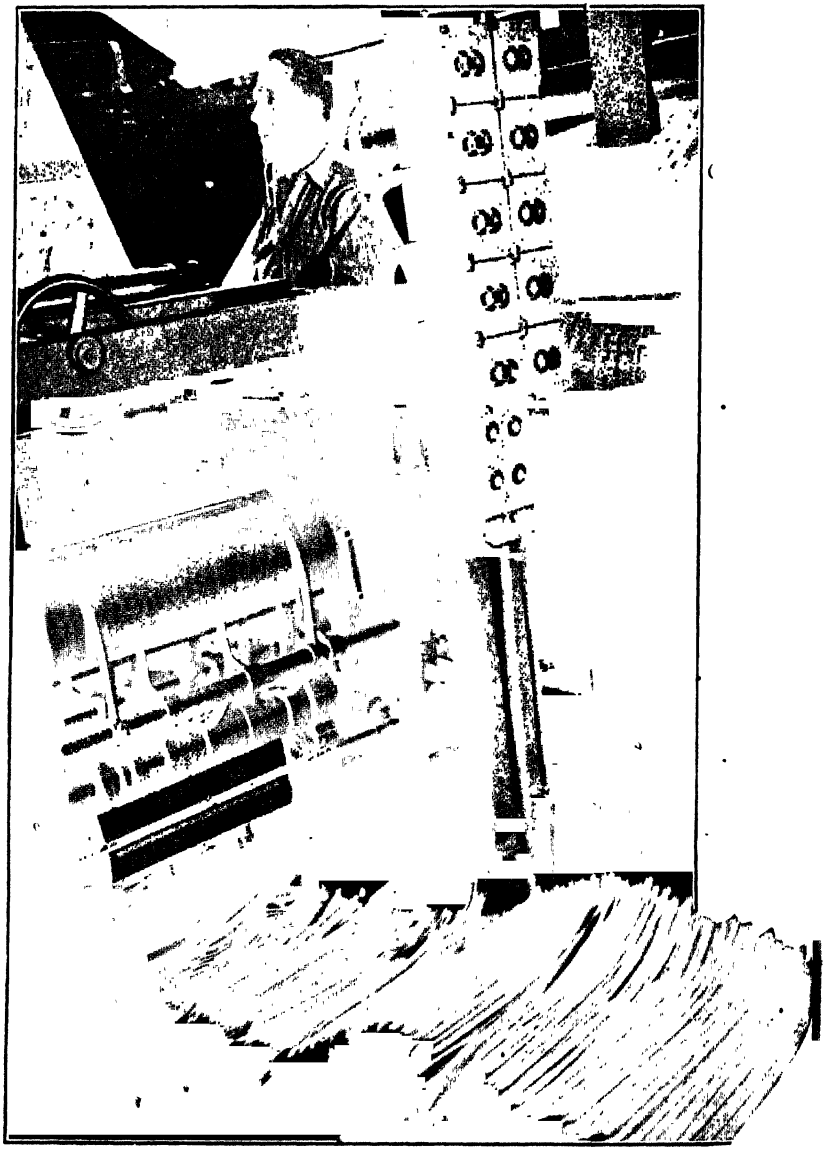
This is a machine age. Mechanical means have displaced hand work and animal labour in every line of en-

deavour. However this may be deplored because it causes unemployment and poverty, yet it is an impressive sign of the times, and it has its blessings in saving man from much drudgery.

Up to a century ago, in the progress of civilization, all manufacturing and agriculture and mining were accomplished with bare hands and feet, straining muscles, or the crudest and simplest and slowest of instruments. Suddenly, the machines began to make their appearance, first man- or animal-power mowing machines, spinning machines, sewing machines, milling machines, cutting machines, threshing machines, grinding machines, printing machines, cleaning machines. The next step followed quickly, the application of steam, gas, and electric power to machines, while man stands by and watches them work.

Scores of spinning machines, covering a whole floor of a factory, can now be supervised by one man. Printing presses are fed paper and ink and turn out folded and covered and bundled newspapers and magazines at the rate of 100,000 every hour. Food-preparing machines take proportioned ingredients, mix, cook, roll, dry, sort, pack, and wrap them without the touch of a human hand. Machines crack nuts without breaking the kernels; machines clean, colour, sort, count, and pack fruit in boxes; machines set and distribute type; machines, almost human in intelligence, and swifter and more skilful than human hands, are being made to work every process known to industry and transportation.

One hundred and fifty years ago people lived without the following machines, besides the ones already mentioned: wood-working machines, fire engines, harvesters, ice-making machines, air engines, watches, cash registers,



A huge press printing and folding newspapers at the rate of thousands every hour.

typewriters, adding and accounting machines, cash carriers, machine guns, air brakes, hydraulic machines, roller mills, compressed air drills, shoe machines, knitting machines, steam hammers, nail machines. And so the list might be lengthened indefinitely.

It may be said that many of these modern innovations are to man's detriment. Nevertheless they are astonishing wonders. And much has been done for the health and longevity of man. The average age of man has been lengthened by the reduction of infant mortality, resulting in much larger populations all over the world. Suffering, disease, and death have been greatly lessened by reason of discoveries in prevention and cure. Sanitation is a late application of cleanliness to health.

Conquered Diseases

Disease like tuberculosis, pneumonia, diphtheria, smallpox, influenza, enteric, diabetes, bubonic plague, cholera, and pellagra have been conquered by medical care and cooperation of the patient. And millions every year are being spent to discover the cause and cure of cancer. Never in all the remainder of the life of the world put together has so much been done in life-saving and disease eradication as has been done in the last few decades.

As tributes to modern medical science we have: the pasteurizing of foods, knowledge of disease germs, the X ray, vaccination, inoculation, anæsthesia, plastic surgery, false teeth, artificial limbs and eyes, the stethoscope, the spectroscope; water, light, and heat treatments; electrical treatments, sanitary plumbing, street sweepers, disinfection, blood transfusion, skin grafting, remodelling facial features, audiphones, cataract removal to make the blind see, steriliza-

tion, discovery of radium and insulin, discovery of vitamins in food, Braille type for the blind, an electrical device which turns words on a page into sound for use of the blind; bloodless surgery, rejuvenation with gland extracts—but this is enough.

Physicians, surgeons, and chemists are performing miracles of healing every day. They are creating fevers,



One of scores of telephone switch girls in a large city exchange.

by electricity, in the body to burn up disease-germs. They are taking eye-balls from the sockets of those who are just dead, and are transplanting them into the empty sockets of the living, thus restoring sight. They are operating successfully on the vital organs of the brain and heart. They are keeping alive men with inert lungs, by means of arti-

ficial respiration, the "iron lung." We live in a day of medical phenomena.

Discovery

This is an era of discovery and achievement. For 5,500 years men were content to stay near home and do as they did the year before. But after Columbus discovered America and Magellan sailed around the world, and Marco Polo traversed Asia, discovery lagged till the twentieth century. An awakening! And impenetrable interiors, forests, deserts, mountains, and snow-fields were penetrated. The poles were discovered, and arctic and antarctic regions explored. No spot on earth, however remote, dared challenge the footfall of man, except Mount Everest, which is a sort of third pole. But intrepid man will not rest satisfied till it, too, is trod.

From the discovery of coal, steam, gas, oil, electricity, and heavenly bodies, we have gone on to the discovery of rubber, asphalt, plastics, coal-tar dyes, medicines, explosives, aluminium, enamel ware, wood pulp for paper, robots, invisible light rays,—and even that maggots from flies' eggs are the best disinfectors of a wound.

Great Public Works

Our achievements encompass the Suez and Panama and other isthmus-cutting canals; the stupendous Boulder, Assuan, Dnineparatroi (Russia) and Grand Coulee dams; guns which will shoot seventy-five miles; great battle fleets on water and in the air; sky-scrapers 1,200 feet high; ships of 80,000 tons displacement, veritable floating cities; a telescope lens 200 inches in diameter; a twelve-mile tunnel; a 6,000-mile railway; huge suspension bridges, towering monuments, massive public buildings.



Press Photo Agent

Saving lives by means of blood transfusion.

From the evidence before our eyes, we may well conclude that inventive genius has been confined to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries A.D. To go back a hundred and fifty years is to go back five thousand years. If Gautama, Solomon, Moses, Asoka, the Pharaohs, Xerxes, of millenniums in the past, had been resurrected in the eighteenth century, they would have seen nothing very strange more than the dress and customs of the people. But bring to life now a man who lived a hundred and fifty years ago, say Napoleon, and he would be amazed and bewildered by the new things he would see. What would come before his eyes that he had never even imagined? Here is a partial list, and these added to the scores of discoveries and inventions which we have already mentioned in this chapter:

He would see steel buildings, time-locks, steam turbines, slot machines.

He would see torpedoes, submarines, automatic guns, tanks, machine guns, magnetic mines, smokeless powder, noiseless shooting, dynamite.

He would see celluloid articles, friction and safety watches, vacuum sweepers, bath-rooms.

He would see steel farm implements, barbed wire fences, Artesian wells, fertilizer from the air, growing plants and fabulous crops of fruits and vegetables in water treated with chemicals.

He would see patent-process flour, breakfast foods and all packaged and tinned and bottled foods, cowless butter, soda-water fountains.

He would see petrol motors, sleeping cars, tractors, remote-wireless control of traffic and aeroplanes, hydroplanes, ocean grey-hounds.

He would see water gas, liquefied air, synthetic jewels, cellophane, the seismograph for detecting earthquakes, the cosmic ray, the discovery of atoms, molecules, and electrons, dry ice, rubber from flowers, "twilight sleep," growth of flesh in salt water.

He would see photographs and photo-engravings, ocean-cables, fire alarms, steel pens, fountain pens, eversharp pencils, electric torches, linotype, monotype, intertype, wireless telephone and telegraph, telegraphy, radio beam wireless, paper from cornstalks, cameras and motion picture machines—

But we desist, lest we daze and bore him into wishing to return to his grave for the quiet of a century ago.

We all agree that these wonders of our age are due to enormously increased intelligence in the last one hundred years. We have more knowledge. And, without any apparent reason, we are prone to congratulate ourselves on what we have done, and to boast of our superior ability. We feel that we are somehow better than our forebears, and so deserve all these blessings. But is that the explanation?

Those same forebears, of three generations ago, had no idea we could do what we have done. They scoffed at any dreamer who imagined such things as our commonplace conveniences now. Listen to Voltaire, the French infidel and avowed enemy of the Bible, ridicule Sir Isaac Newton, the father of modern science: "Now look at that mind of Newton's, who discovered gravity, and told us such marvels for us all to admire. When he became an old man and got into his dotage, he began to study that book called the Bible; and it seemed that, in order to credit its fabulous nonsense, we must believe that the knowledge of mankind

will be so increased that we shall be able to travel at the rate of fifty miles an hour."

Who is to be ridiculed now—Newton or Voltaire?

Our great-grandfathers made laws against railway trains ("devices of Satan," they called them) running more than nine miles an hour. The first railway advertisement in America read: "Notice: The locomotive engine will depart *daily* when the weather is fair, with a train of passenger cars. In bad weather horse cars will be run on the same schedule." For nearly six thousand years men veritably crawled, and then they flew, like a worm suddenly turned into a butterfly.

The Source of Knowledge

Note that Voltaire accused Sir Isaac Newton of getting from the *Bible* his knowledge of fast travel facilities in the future. The sceptic was right in that particular. Sir Isaac secured his advance information from the Word of God. And we can do the same.

An enlightened era just before the close of earth's history was inevitable. Considering the ways of a God of love and justice, He was sure to shed light into the darkened minds of the men of our time, to inspire them to study anew their neglected Bibles, that they might discover in the sacred writings the predictions and warnings of Christ's second coming and of the end of the world. God has never left any generation of men without an opportunity to grasp the means of salvation from death. Surely in the time of the last judgment, with eternal doom facing all men, and the very last chance to escape it fast slipping away, He would make doubly plain the knowledge of His plan to save all who would choose to be saved.

The diligent study of the Bible alone will clear the mind, stimulate intellectuality, make logical the reasoning powers, and inspire to invention and discovery. And never was the Bible studied more than it is today. Never before were there so many copies of the Bible to be studied. It is by far the most widely-known book and is the best seller in every country, even where its reading is banned or discouraged by the government. The invention of printing (the first book ever printed from movable types was the Bible) made possible its distribution throughout the entire world by the multiplied millions of copies in over a thousand languages.

More books have been written about the Bible and the characters depicted in it than about any other one topic in the literature of the world. It has been a notable factor in the advance of civilization. Belief in, and practise of, its teachings ennoble the character. Is it any wonder that a Bible-reading age is an enlightened age?

Most significantly the divine prophet said of the times in which we live, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."[1] The "gospel of the kingdom" to which He referred is the good news of the righteous kingdom which Christ will establish in the future when this earth is made new. And this good news is being preached (proclaimed in various ways) today to "every kindred, and tongue, and people."

Christ said furthermore that the good news of the kingdom would be sent to all mankind in a very short time just before the end; in fact, within one man's lifetime, or a generation.[2] For this to be accomplished, every facility possible would have to be provided. There are many

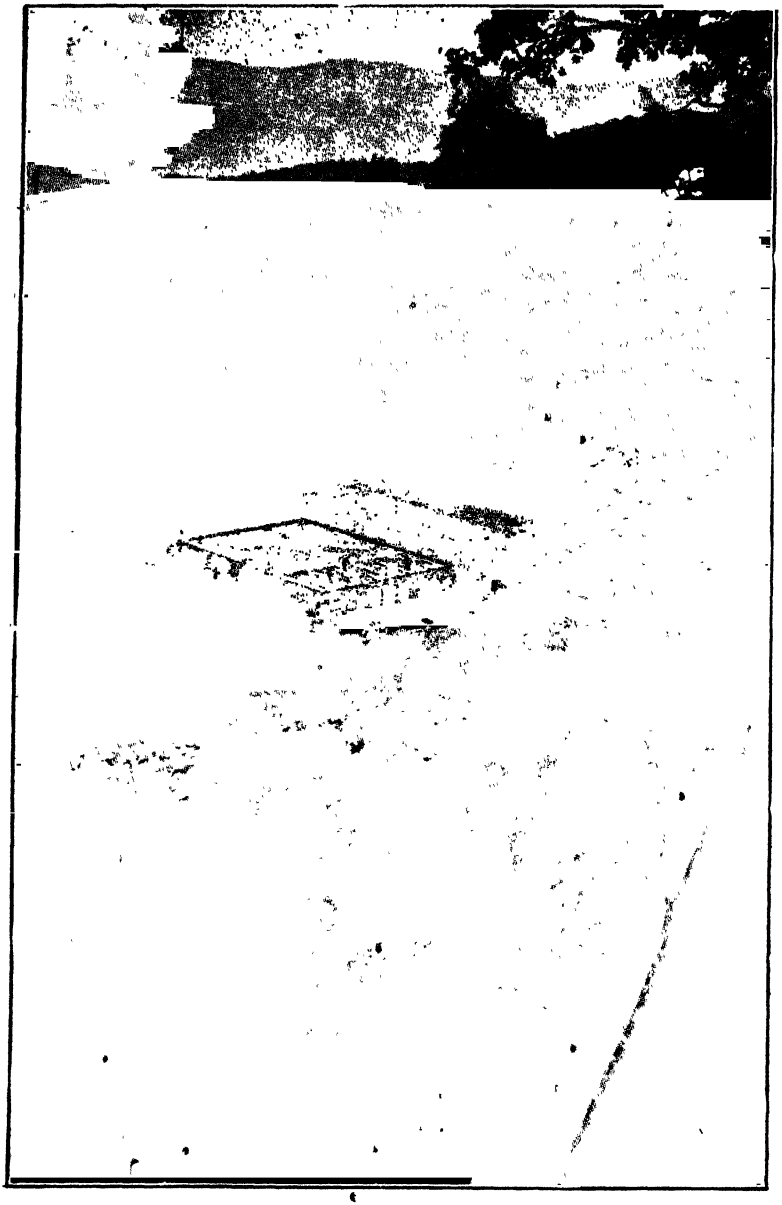
obstacles and hindrances to the carrying of a message to every man, woman, and child on earth—many languages and dialects, inaccessibility of remote peoples, race and national antagonisms, biased minds, illiteracy, ignorance. Happily, this kingdom message is not intended to force anyone to belief in it; it is simply a "witness,"[1] and the individual is left free to choose for himself.

Thus we have the chief reason for our progressive, inventive, and restless age. God has stimulated the minds of men to provide ways and means to carry rapidly His last message to a waiting world.

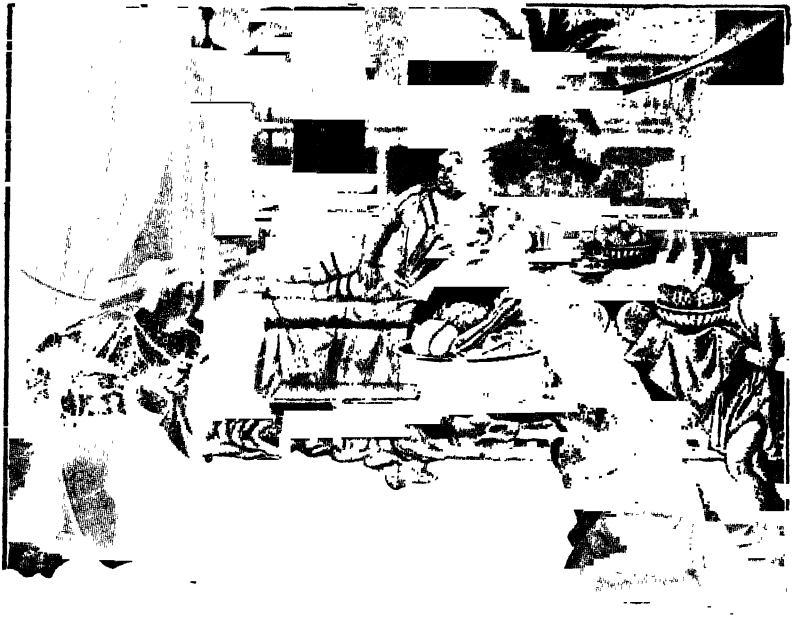
The reader must have noted that the great preponderance of modern inventions have been along the lines of transportation and communication. Read again the lists we have given in this chapter, and select the inventions that would facilitate the carrying of messages and messengers; also those which promote health and which release men from drudgery, so that their minds may be free and clear to understand and appreciate God's message of truth when it comes to their attention. That the messengers may be *transported* and that the message may be *communicated* to enlightened minds and receptive hearts everywhere, God has planned earth's last generation to be the most richly endowed peoples of all history.

This is an enlightened age because God would give every man alive today every opportunity to know of the destruction which is soon to be visited on this earth, and of the way to escape that destruction. Our inventions are marvellous, but they will not save us in the crisis to come. Today they are for us because they are at once our help in truth-promulgation and a friendly warning of things to come. Tomorrow they will be against us if we have not been mindful of their import.

1 Matthew 24:14. 2 Matthew 24:34



Deep in the woods is a depository where enormous quantities of silver are stored.



From ancient times rich men have lived in wanton luxury, but their fabulous fortunes cannot compare with the enormous riches of modern capitalists.

Increasing Poverty and Wealth

ONE of the most bewildering and distressing problems of our times is the unequal distribution of the wealth of the world. Wealth of men and nations is estimated in lands, natural resources, and money, together with such advantages as favourable climates, proximity to markets and trade routes, and a heritage of bodily vigour. These benefits are far from being equally distributed among the earth's inhabitants; and while it may be said that many have only themselves to blame for poverty, yet this is not true in general.

Greed for more and more wealth on the part of the rich, and the crying need for subsistence on the part of

the extremely poor, are to a great degree the basic causes of the terrific wars which ravage whole continents today. Money grabbing by individuals, and the strong desire to control the treasures of soil and mine and the profits of world commerce, have precipitated aggressive international combats that have impoverished nations and deluged wide territories with blood.

A Rich World

There is enough wealth in the world to make every man, woman, and child reasonably prosperous and happy. And, regardless of losses, as by war, the world's wealth is increasing enormously every year. Better facilities for agriculture and mining, and also many other factors, make this possible. It is estimated that if this wealth were divided equally, every head of a family and every unmarried adult would receive approximately Rs. 5,000. Of gold alone, there are 4,200 crores of rupees' worth of it in the hands of men, enough to supply every person alive with an amount valued at Rs. 60.

And, strange as it may seem, poverty is not alone caused by the unwillingness of the prosperous to share with the poverty-stricken. Fortunately, there are many charitable hearts, and billions in money are passed every year from the rich and near-rich to the poor. Yet the poor and unemployed increase in numbers, and riches gravitate into the control of a favoured few.

Such is the state of economic affairs in many parts of the world that enormous stores of food and other commodities are hoarded or actually destroyed in order to maintain a high price level, while in the same neighbourhood thousands of people are unclothed, starving, and wretched. And stranger still, those who are supposed to be able to



In the mad struggle for money, even the depths of the sea are searched for buried treasure.

change such situations for the better tell us that little can be done. Men and governments appear to be dominated by forces that are entirely beyond them.

An Economic Crisis

There is no need of quoting from prominent observers of the times as to the truth of the foregoing statements. Every man who looks about him with open eyes, and everyone who reads the news of the world, is well aware of them. However, here are some comments which express that which everyone is thinking.

"We are living in a civilization which is very rapidly going to pieces."[1]

"Has our industrial civilization grown so complex that no human brains can control it? Is there intelligence enough in the world to find some path out of this jungle of machinery and untamed forces?....Certainly we are living at a point in history when changes of a sweeping nature are in the making. The world has outgrown its old framework, and the cracks and fissures which are now appearing in the social and economic structure seem to indicate the breaking up of one era and the starting point of another."[2]

In a notable Encyclical from the Pope of Rome, on the economic and social evils of the times, is an assertion that the present situation is "perhaps the most serious and widespread since the Deluge." In desperation, he calls all peoples "to unite and oppose with all their might the evils which are crushing humanity, and the still greater evils which are threatening." Prof. T. E. Gregory, a business expert, says, "It may be the gold standard will not work in a world like this; but will a world like this work at all?"

"The existing situation is without precedent.....Economic war has thrown the life of the world out of balance, and has brought the nations to bankruptcy. It now threatens to bring them to chaos and ruin.....The distress of all nations which is rapidly growing, threatens to bring universal revolution.....It is not the wreck of a single nation that is involved—but it is the wreck of a world."[3]

What Is the Reason?

So the alarming observations might be multiplied. Economists and statesmen are alive to the situation and the need. Most of them do not know what to do for recovery.

A few offer solutions without much hope of their workability. They see great multitudes of people toiling hard to make a bare living, and many on the verge of starvation, while a comparative few roll in wealth and live in wanton luxury. Discontent is ever rife among the depressed classes, and may break out into open rebellion at any moment.

What is the reason for the vast gulf between the rich and the poor? It is explained that some men and nations have by inheritance, discovery, conquest, good management, initiative, thrift, industry, or chance—or all together— acquired land, resources, advantageous geographical location, opportunities for trade, stimulating climate; and others are not so blessed. The unfortunate are willing to accept this as a reason, but not as an excuse, for their not having more of the good things of life. They clamour for the rich to divide up. Yet the possession, in itself, of wealth is not a crime; rich men are not as a class sinners above other men. Money is not evil. Then why the difficulty?

Abject poverty is a blight on our civilization; there can be no question about this. It means suffering for the poor and dishonour to the rich.

The Root Cause of Poverty

The reader may well suspect that we have not yet mentioned the root cause of poverty in our analysis of the subject. The Master, who Himself was so poor He had not where to lay His head, said long ago, "Ye have the poor always with you."[4] But is it necessary for the great majority of humankind to be drudging for existence? The Book of truth places a finger on the basic cause of poverty, especially poverty now: "Mark this, there are *hard times* coming in the last days. For *men will be selfish, fond of money.*"[5] Human *greed* is the root cause of poverty.

We now turn to cures for poverty. And by poverty is meant, not a situation in which it is necessary to work hard for a living, but it is that penury, that beggary, which brings wretchedness, hunger, cold, nakedness, ill health, and scarcely any of the joys of living. It is estimated that there are out of employment in the world 22,000,000 adults who are able and willing to work and were formerly employed, besides the many more millions who are dependent, and more millions yet who are able to eke out only a bare existence. Through the ages, and more than ever now, thinking and considerate men have not been content to let such suffering continue.

In the past there have been various economic, social, and governmental plans suggested, advocated, and tried, to distribute wealth more evenly. Among them are radical forms of government, taxing the rich, paying huge pensions to the aged, and government ownership. All these have their good points; but the problem is still with us, and is growing more complicated and distressing. We are persuaded that any of these schemes for economic betterment would work if men's hearts were unselfish; but with fondness for money dominating the majority of the world's inhabitants, none of them will work.

What Do the Scriptures Say?

Resorting to the Holy Scriptures for guidance in this matter, as in all others, our minds are directed to this startling prophecy: "Come now, you rich men, weep and shriek over your impending miseries! You have been storing up treasures in the *very last days;* your wealth lies rotting, and your clothes are moth-eaten; your gold and silver lie rusted over, and their rust will be evidence against you, it will devour your flesh like fire. See, the wages of



Some rich men have so much wealth that they are at a loss to know what to do with it, while the poor languish in distress.

which you have defrauded the workmen who mowed your fields call out, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of Hosts You have revelled on earth and plunged into dissipation; you have fattened yourselves as for the day of slaughter; you have condemned, you have murdered the righteous—unresisting."[6]

Could there be drawn a more vivid picture of the economic condition of our times! Some rich men have ground down the poor by defrauding them and making them work

for less than subsistence wages. The blood-and-sweat money thus gained has been spent partly in wanton luxury and dissipation; but most of it has not even done the rich any good, but has been hoarded. Thousands of crores of gold and silver are stored in great vaults far underground, useless and corroding; while millions of people starve for want of a few copper pice. Injustice and unfair dealing stalk abroad unchecked, and the poor are the unhappy victims. All the rich are not to be condemned. Some of them are philanthropic. But the tendency of wealth is to make men selfish.

Not always have the working classes accepted their fate calmly. A terrific struggle between capital and labour has kept industry agitated for many years in all parts of the world. In most cases, before they have cried to the Lord for redress, the working classes have requested and demanded of their employers in vain, and then have resorted to strikes and mob violence to secure a better wage and easier working conditions. As a result, revolting crimes have been committed on both sides, and factory cities have rung with the din of class strife.

The rise of the working man has brought some concessions from the "captains of industry" who have been exploiting their employees, but on the whole they are meagre compared to what will be necessary before the world's wealth will be shared to a fair degree of deserving equality.

The experts in adjusting industry, business, and finance have so far failed to discover a way to bridge the wide gulf between the labourer and the capitalist; hence economic chaos threatens. Neither side is willing to forego those privileges which it considers its rights—and the bitterness and strife continue.

But these desperate conditions cannot long continue, thank God. They are a sign of the "last days," and the end must come before they will be corrected. The rich men may well howl for the retribution which is soon to be visited upon them. But God will take care of that. Let not the poor rail against the rich and try to wreak vengeance upon them. Such misguided efforts will be futile, and the wage-earner will only suffer the more, as experience has proved. "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."[7] Fortunately, the oppressed will have only a little longer to wait. They must be patient. Here is the admonition from God:

"Be patient, then, brothers, till the arrival of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious crop of the land, biding his time patiently till he gets the autumn and spring rains; have patience yourselves, strengthen your hearts, *for the arrival of the Lord is at hand.* Do not murmur against one another [the rich], brothers, lest *you* are judged; look, the Judge is standing at the very door!"[8]

Let not the poor be envious of the rich. Riches end few troubles. They only change their form. It is vain to "trust in uncertain riches." In the end they will eat the flesh of their possessor as with fire. The only way to the degree of wealth and prosperity which the poor really need is this: "Take no [anxious] thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?....But *seek ye first the kingdom of God,* and His *righteousness;* and *all these things shall be added unto you.*"[9]

Every human scheme to right the wrongs of the poor is sure to fall short. It is not new schemes we need, but new hearts and minds to work them. And the only power that can change hearts is the power of God. There is one

way to bring to an end those who rebel against Him and refuse to have their hearts changed, and He is the only One who can bring them to an end. The whole teaching of the Book of Truth is that economic and all other reforms will be ushered in only by the personal coming of Jesus Christ "in His kingdom." This is God's cure for poverty.

But while they wait patiently, will God permit the poor to starve? No person whose heart God has changed has ever starved to death, and none ever will. Nor will they have to beg. Here is testimony: "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."[10] If we do right, work hard, "seek first the kingdom," and trust God, we need have no fear of suffering from extreme poverty. God will not bring upon us anything that we are not able to bear,[11] or that will not be for our eternal good.

1 H. C. Wells.
2 Raymond B. Fosdick, "New York Times Magazine."
3 "The Way of Recovery," Sir George Paish, pp. 159, 160.
4 Matthew 26:11.
5 II Timothy 3:1, 2, Moffatt's translation.
6 James 5:1-6, Moffatt's translation.
7 Romans 12:19.
8 James 5:7-9, Moffatt's translation.
9 Matthew 6:31-33.
10 Psalms 37:25.
11 I Corinthians 10:13.



From creation, and all down through the ages, the Sabbath has been remembered and observed.

The Day of Rest

FROM the very beginning of recorded time, practically the whole human race has known of the division of time into weeks of seven days each; also, one day of rest in every seven (known in English as the *Sabbath*, and in other languages by variations of that name) has been known from very ancient times. The last day of the week has been accepted as the rest day, a day for cessation of mental and physical labour and for worship and spiritual meditation and refreshment.

Some years ago a "Chart of the Week" was prepared by Dr. William M. Jones of London, in which he showed that at least one hundred and eight languages of the world's peoples, east, west, north, and south, indicate that the seventh day of the week is the Sabbath, or holy rest day. The following Asiatic and European languages are taken from his

list, together with the word in each for the last day of the week, and the meaning in English:

Hebrew	Shabbath	Sabbath
Arabic	Assabt	The Sabbath
Persian	Shambin	Sabbath
Greek	Sabbaton	Sabbath
Latin	Sabbatum	Sabbath
Hindustani	Shamba	Sabbath
Afghan	Shamba	Sabbath
Malay	Ari-Sabtu	Day Sabbath

UNMARKED IN NATURE.

Yet there is nothing in the discoveries of science or the observation of nature which marks off the week. We may know the limits of years, seasons, months, and days by the movements of the earth and heavenly bodies, but the week of seven days has no such observable boundaries It is a section of time arbitrarily set off.

"The week is a period of seven days, having no reference whatever to the celestial motions,—a circumstance to which it owes its unalterable uniformity.. . .It has been employed from time immemorial in almost all Eastern countries."[1]

It has been said that the human body, the bodies of animals, and even such inanimate things as machinery, are most efficient and lasting when they take one day rest in every seven, no more and no less. However this may be, it is reasonable to believe that the One who made man and all material things, and also the Sabbath, would co-ordinate them in this way. Still, this would not account for the fact that the weekly cycle has always had a particular day for its *beginning* and a *definite* day for its close, and is not simply any round of seven days which man may choose.

God's Command, the Only Authority

The weekly cycle and the Sabbath institution are as old as creation, as old as man himself, as old as the marriage institution. Besides the Jews, other nations of antiquity possessed the week and the Sabbath. But its age and its universality do not alone commend it to us. Apart from the direct command of God the Creator, there is no authority for Sabbath-keeping. And this fact makes it all the more important that it should be kept. For Sabbath observance by man is a symbol of the invisible connection between God and man, the understanding of which must be grasped by faith.

A Sign of Devotion

The Sabbath is not based on nature, nor reason, nor on what are commonly called morals, but alone on revelation from God to man. That is, there is nothing to mark it in heaven or earth; it cannot be arrived at by logic; and the keeping of it does not seem to be based on moral necessity, such as are obedience to the laws against stealing and murder and falsehood. Yet Sabbath observance is a moral necessity, for God has placed it in the same category with other moral laws. It is essentially a test of implicit faith in God and the justice of His commands. And down through the ages since creation God has ever made Sabbath observance a sign of adherence to Him.[2]

As we have shown before in these pages, the Sabbath was given as a blessing and an obligation to all mankind on the first seventh day of time.[3] It is not a Jewish institution, for it was given two thousand years before there was a Jew.[4] It was not copied from the customs of non-Jewish or non-Christian ancient peoples, for it antedated all of

them. While it was not generally observed, because of sin and rebellion against God, by a majority of the world's inhabitants, it was known by all and observed by thousands in every age.

The Soul of Divine Authority

Two thousand five hundred years after its Author instituted the Sabbath at creation, He wrote the command concerning it on enduring stone with His own finger, and placed the words, "seventh day is the Sabbath," in the centre of His ten commandment law, which is the constitution of His government.[5] In the English translation there are the same number of words before and after this expression. In this command alone is the seal of divine authority for the whole decalogue. Thus the Sabbath was established as an integral part of the well-being of mankind for all time.

The original week and the identical seventh day of that week have been preserved intact since the beginning of time. God has seen to that. If it was lost in human records during the first twenty-five centuries of time, humanity was set right as to the exact day of the Sabbath by means of the manna miracle sent by God to the Israelites over a period of forty years. And that people, millions strong ever since, and scattered over the whole face of the earth, all agree on Saturday as the seventh day of the week and God's original Sabbath day.

If Christians are confused, and wish to know which day is God's Sabbath, they have but to turn to their Bible records and to their customs for the information. For all agree that Christ was crucified on Friday (Good Friday) and rested in the tomb during the next day (Saturday), which is the Sabbath "according to the commandment," rose

from the dead on Sunday, the first day of the week. Christians may keep Sunday in commemoration of the resurrection of Christ, but it is not the Sabbath therefore; never was and never will be. And its keeping is not in any sense a substitute for true Sabbath-keeping. By rejecting the Sabbath, and erecting a human memorial (Sunday keeping) for Christ's resurrection, they leave creation without a memorial, and have two memorials for the rising of Christ; for baptism is God's memorial of the resurrection.

Why the Evolution Theory?

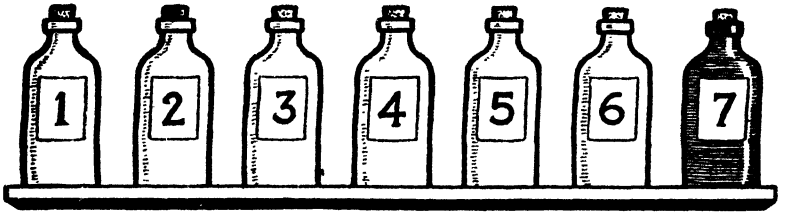
And because men have turned away from seventh-day Sabbath observance, which is a monument to the fact that God created the world in six twenty-four-hour days, and is a connecting token between God and His obedient children, they have forgotten or ignored creation, and have concocted the false theory of evolution to account for the various phenomena which they see about them. They deny, first, creation and the flood experience, which supply the only satisfactory answers to scientific problems of today, and then turn to "fables"[7] and guesses which start with nothing, not even God, credit animate and inanimate things with developing themselves without a higher intelligence, and end they know not where.

Without the Sabbath truth as a guiding star to all truth, the peoples of the world today are adrift on an ocean of intellectual and spiritual bewilderment, without chart or compass. If they only knew it, Sabbath observance is a stabilizing influence for all that goes into the well-being of men. Let any individual who longs for the right path in these days of devious ways, try Sabbath-keeping in sincerity, and see for himself.

Calendar Changes Do Not Change the Sabbath

Any change of calendar reckoning at different times in history has not in any way affected the day of the Sabbath. Scholars have no doubt about this. Whatever the change, the days of the week have continued the same.

"It is to be noted that in the Christian period the order of days of the week has never been interrupted. Thus, when Gregory XIII reformed the calendar, in 1582, Thursday, 4 October, was followed by Friday, 15 October. So in England, in 1752, Wednesday, 2 September, was followed by Thursday, 14 September. What we style 14 August, 1907, the Russians style 1 August, but both call it



If on a shelf there were six bottles of poison and one bottle of health-giving medicine, and you were told that the seventh bottle contained the health potion, it would certainly make a difference which bottle's contents you imbibed. So God says the seventh day of the week is His Sabbath, and the keeping of no other day will comply with His command to keep the Sabbath.

Wednesday."[8] The Russians have adopted the New Style, or Gregorian, Calendar.

God Is Particular

God is particular about man's obedience to His law; and, because of its high importance among the ten commands, He particularly does not excuse Sabbath breaking. He does not leave us to judge which are more or which are less important commands, if indeed any one is less important than another. In truth, if a man breaks one command

he is guilty of all; for he has broken the law, which is a complete and integrated whole.[9] Immediately after He proclaimed His law anciently, a man was discovered rebelliously gathering wood, doing common labour, on the Sabbath. God commanded that man to be put to death.[10] It is a lesson for us. No sin is small with God.

It is well to turn from a negative to a positive attitude toward the Sabbath. A double blessing rests upon its observance. We are to call the Sabbath a delight,[11] and it is our privilege to make it so. It is to be spent by us in happy communion with our Creator and Redeemer, with one another, and with the things of nature. No labour for gain, no selfish pleasure, is to enter into our plans for spending its sacred hours. Preparation should be made for its keeping all during the week, and especially on Friday, the preparation day. All business affairs for the week, all cooking and cleaning that can possibly be done beforehand, in short, everything of a secular nature, should be finished on Friday.[12] Then at sunset Friday the Sabbath day is welcomed joyfully. And its hours last till sunset Saturday.[13] Thus has God ordained. The day begins with the dark part, even as at the beginning of creation.[14] How appropriate to begin any day when everyone is awake, and when all can plainly see the change in nature which marks the boundaries of the day.

The Sabbath Stands

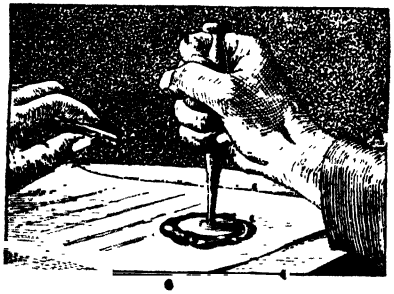
The Sabbath is a beautiful day for soul refreshment. But because it is more than that, a test of loyalty to God, it has been attacked by the powers of evil with bitter hatred. Laws supporting rival days for worship have been made against it. It has been ridiculed, minimized, ignored. Its observers have been laughed to scorn, ostracized, persecuted,

martyred. And the climax of opposition to it is still in the future.

But the Sabbath stands like Gibraltar. And the number of its faithful observers is increasing daily throughout all lands. Not that it will ever be kept by more than a small minority, for it is the "little flock" which will inherit the kingdom of God.[15] But more and more, true men are realizing that God's Sabbath for man is bed-rock in the fundamentals of life, now and hereafter.

Ours is an age of darkness, and Sabbath-keeping is in comparative eclipse. But the age of light and truth is about to dawn. And when the earth is renewed, and righteousness and peace cover the world as the waters cover the sea, then the Sabbath will be kept by all and will shine forth like a star of the first magnitude. "From one Sabbath to another" God's people will come up to worship before Him.[16] Then will the Sabbath and Sabbath-keepers come into their own.

1 "Encyclopædia Britannica," 11th edition, Vol 4. art. "Calendar," p. 988.
2 Ezekiel 20·12, 20.
3 Genesis 2:1-3.
4 Mark 2·27.
5 Exodus 20·1-17.
6 Luke 23·54 to 24:1-6
7 II Peter 1:16.
8 "The Catholic Encyclopædia," Vol III. art "Chronology"
9 James 2.10
10 Numbers 15 32-36
11 Isaiah 58 13, 14
12 Exodus 16·23
13 Leviticus 23 32; Mark 1·32
14 Genesis 1 5.
15 Luke 12 32
16 Isaiah 66 22, 23



The seal of God's law is affixed to the Sabbath commandment.



For the believer in the resurrection, it is not true that the gates of the cemetery swing only inward.

The Dead Will Live Again

WHILE there are people who find life so miserable that they want to die, and some take their own lives, the great majority want to live, and to live long. For everyone, life has its suffering. Even the rich, the carefree, and the healthy do not escape pain and woe. But the Creator has endowed mankind with a strong desire to live; and self-preservation is the first law of life. Who would not live forever if he could be always happy?

The thought of living forever in a happy state has so captured the imagination of mankind, that the belief in life hereafter has been, and is, almost universal throughout the world. It is painfully evident that all men die; funerals are every-day occurrences, and the land is filled with graves. The fact of death gives men little hope of extending this

life much beyond the "three score years and ten"[1] of the psalmist. But may there not be a possibility, and a probability, of life beyond death, a "future state," an otherworldly extension of life, a resurrection from the dead?

Wishful thinking along this line has given birth to many and varied theories and beliefs about the other side of death. To many, death is an open door to another life; perhaps in human or animal form on this earth; perhaps in invisible, spirit form somewhere in space; perhaps in a material heaven with every sensual desire satisfied. Transmigration of souls solves the problem for some; others vision a half-way place, purgatory, where the soul is given another chance to be purged from sin and to go on to eternal bliss; still others see immediate heaven, or hell, at death, at least for a part of man as constituted in this life.

Reputedly wise men would have us believe that this wishful thinking of life beyond death, which seems to be inherent in man, is the best proof that there really is a future state. God placed the desire in human beings, they reason, in order that He may fulfil it. That is, there must be a future life, because the human heart so longs for it. But such proof is far from satisfying to those who would be sure: for the human heart longs for many a boon which it never enjoys.

We have shown in our studies that the God of heaven reveals the future to His children, and to all who will read His Word and believe. "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets."[2] Our God loves us, and is eager to do everything possible for our best good. He knows we long for happy longevity, even everlasting life. He has revealed the future of many nations. And much more important

to us individually is our own future than the future of nations. Surely a just and loving God would not keep secret from His children that which concerns every person more than any other one thing, namely, What is ahead for me personally? And He *has* not kept this knowledge from us. We *may* know. The Bible has the revelation.

The Nature of Man

First, let us learn the truth about how man is constituted. Here is the simple record of man's creation: "God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."[3] God wonderfully and intricately made man's body from some of the elements which are found in the soil (which modern science has proved to be true), then imparted the spark of life to him, and every part of his being began to function—the lungs to breathe, the blood to flow, the nerves to feel, the muscles to work, the brain to think, the character to form, the individuality to develop. The combination of the body and the spirit, or life, made the soul, somewhat as a mixture of water and lime and sand make mortar, or a chemical compound of oxygen and hydrogen make water. If we would distinguish between these three parts of man, we may say that the body is the material part, the spirit the mysterious and immaterial life spark (like electricity), and the soul that part of man which is made possible by the combination of these two,—his consciousness, his judgment, his will, his free moral agency, his accountability, his conscience, his reason,—in short, his character, which makes him good or bad, or different from other men.

As at man's creation, when these three parts were brought together to make the live man, so at death these three are separated to make a lifeless man. The spirit de-

parts from the body and returns, as it came, back to God and without personality or consciousness any more than the life of a plant being retrieved by its Maker. The dead body returns to the elements from which it was taken, is burned or decays and merges with the earth and the atmosphere.[4] The soul, without the combination of body and spirit, simply ceases to be, except that memories and records of it are kept in the minds of other men and in the chronicles of God.[5] The soul has no separate life or consciousness after death.[6] This is the teaching of the Bible, the most reasonable and satisfactory explanation of the nature of man ever put forth—in fact, the truth.

Thus, when a man dies, he *is* dead. He ceases to be a conscious entity.[7] God did not make man to live forever, to be immortal.[8] He made him mortal, subject to death; then placed before him the *possibility* of becoming immortal by belief in Christ and obedience to God's commands.[9] If the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, had stood the test of obedience which God placed before them, had refrained from eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, after a time God would have granted them the gift of inherent eternal life.

Man Not Immortal

But our first parents did not obey, and thus brought death to all their posterity.[9] But God did not abandon the race to this fate. No matter how good a man may be now, he cannot gain eternal life. All must die, good or bad.[10] But God gave Christ to die in man's stead; and if man will accept of this offer of salvation while alive, though he must die, he will be raised from the dead, and will live eternally. Thus man possesses *conditional* immortality—he will have it on condition that he accepts Christ, and in no other way.

All men who have ever died are still totally dead (with the exception of a very few for whom a special resurrection miracle was performed). They remain dead till Christ returns to earth the second time, in the very near future. Then He calls them from their resting places. This raising from the dead is somewhat like the creation of man in the first place. The remains of the body are brought from the dust of the earth, the life spark is introduced, and man again becomes a living soul, except that this time the character or individuality he will have developed in this life will be appropriated by the re-created form. The record of the nature of this personality will have been preserved in the books of heaven. [11]

Death Is Somewhat Like Sleep

Christ spoke of this first death of man as sleep. [12] And sound, dreamless sleep is a fitting likeness of it, though the functions of the body continue in sleep, and entirely cease in death. But as far as the knowledge and consciousness of the individual is concerned, death is like sleep. One knows nothing, thinks nothing, remembers nothing, is conscious or aware of nothing, in perfectly sound sleep. But when he wakes, all his faculties resume operation. A like figure may be found in a fainting condition, or when otherwise a person is rendered senseless. This is the consistent view of man in death, and it will bear any test.

This view solves the baffling mysteries which surround contrary views. We need not wonder about the questionable justice of one man going to his reward or punishment thousands of years before another, for all wait for a simultaneous resurrection. We are not mystified by the inconsistency of people going to rewards and punishments at death, when the judgment, which comes appropriately at the



Spiritism, with all its trickery and deception, is not of God.

close of earth's history, has not yet decided whether they are to be rewarded or punished and to what degree. The resurrection follows the judgment. It also explains why the few men who have been miraculously raised from the dead, such as Lazarus of Bible fame, had nothing to say as to where they had been. They were totally unconscious in the grave.

This view also frees us from many of our fears and superstitions. If dead men are really dead, they cannot return to us in "spirit form" and watch us or plague us. There are no ghosts or spirits of the dead floating around

burying places. Any such appearances can be explained otherwise. Prayers for the dead are futile. Money paid to help the dead in some way is wasted. Huge expense and worry involved in honouring the dead for the purpose of currying their favour and having them intercede for the living, is all of no avail. Happily, we may be saved all this trouble and expense. The dead do us neither good nor bad, but quietly await the resurrection. [13]

Again, this view saves us from spiritism. We need spend no time and money trying to get into communication with the dead, for the dead "know not anything," neither do they have anything to do with anything that is done under the sun. [14] The supposed appearance of our dead relatives and friends is either trickery and sleight of hand by cunning mediums, or these loved ones are impersonated by the devil's evil angels to deceive us and lead us away from God and His truth. These demons are able to transform themselves to look like and talk like anyone they wish. They have had thousands of years of experience and observation of human life from which to draw for their deceptions.

Spiritism Is Not of God

Certainly these spirits are supernatural; but this does not prove that they are of God, and are working for our good. Immediately after great loss of life, as in war, spiritism flourishes; for thousands are longing to communicate with loved ones who have been killed. The devil and unscrupulous men and women prey on those who have been lead to believe that the dead are not dead, but in some form are hovering over the places of the living. Away with spiritism, and anything which has to do with seeking the dead for the help of the living. Let all turn to God for the help needed. He never fails, and His help is free. [15]

It is good to know that our dead friends, the righteousness of whose character we may have some doubt, are not now being tortured in a fiery hell, or being punished in some other terrible way. Hell, as a place for the torture of evil men, does not now exist anywhere in God's universe. There is no necessity of buying charms and tokens to fend off the spirits of the dead, nor of purchasing passes to get the departed out of hades or limbo.

It was the devil's first lie which started this idea that death does not end life. He said to Adam and Eve, "Ye shall not surely die."[16] And millions of earth's inhabitants have been believing that dastardly falsehood ever since. It has been the prime lie of history. Believing it has lead multitudes of all ages into the most degrading and abominable practices. And modern philosophy and religion—including the millions of Christians who cling to the doctrine of the immortality of the soul—have been carried away with it. But it remains a colossal untruth.

The truth about the dead is so beautiful, so comforting, so reasonable, so satisfying. At the close of the suffering of this life, they drop off into the painless slumber of death. "There the wicked cease from troubling; and there the weary be at rest."[17] As in a night's sleep, they remain unconscious of the passage of time until the resurrection morning wakes them. Though we sorrow at their loss, we may safely leave them in the just and loving care of their Creator, who does all things well. Thus the tomb is robbed of its terrors.

The Fate of the Wicked

Very closely connected with the state of the dead is the fate of the wicked; for a very popular religious teaching the world around is to the effect that those who are wicked



God alone knows the future. He does not work through fortune-tellers.

go to a fiery hell at death, and are then tortured throughout eternity, or at least for a very long time. The consistent truth is that this burning place of punishment is not in existence at the present time, but will be when God sends fire down from heaven to destroy the wicked at the end of the present age.[18] Thus the common question, "Where is hell?" had better be, "*When* is hell?" Hell *will be* on this earth, when God puts a complete end to sin and sinners.

"Both soul and body," the whole body, is cast into hell.[19] At death the soul does not go to one place and the body to another, as we have seen. Christ told the truth when He said, "*When* the Son of man [Christ] shall come in His glory [the second advent of Christ to this earth, a future event], and all the holy angels with Him, *then* shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall

be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another. . . . *Then* shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."[20]

Where Is Hell?

Here is the testimony as to the location of hell: "The heavens [atmospheric] and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."[21] When the destruction of sin, sinners, and all traces of sin, is finished, then there will be "new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."[22]

How long will the wicked burn in hell? We do not know, exactly. Evidently there will be degrees of punishment according to the degree of wickedness. But they are not tortured eternally; they die. "The wages of sin is *death*."[23] And everlasting torture would necessitate everlasting *life*, for a body must be alive in order to suffer torture. And eternal life is nowhere promised to the wicked.

There are two deaths for the wicked, and one for the righteous. "In Adam all die." Both evil and good men die once; but the good are resurrected never to die again. The evil are brought to life to die the second time.

The following expressions are used in the Bible with reference to the punishment of the wicked; "destruction," "consume into smoke," "burn them up," "leave them neither root nor branch," "the wicked shall not be," "they shall be as though they had not been."[24] Certainly such words signify total annihilation. Extinction of sin and sinners must be according to God's purpose; for we cannot conceive of a loving and just God preserving through all eternity some

spot in His universe where human beings writhe in agony and curse Him forever. Such would be sin and its results preserved; and we have the promise that these are to be no more.[25]

"Everlasting Fire"

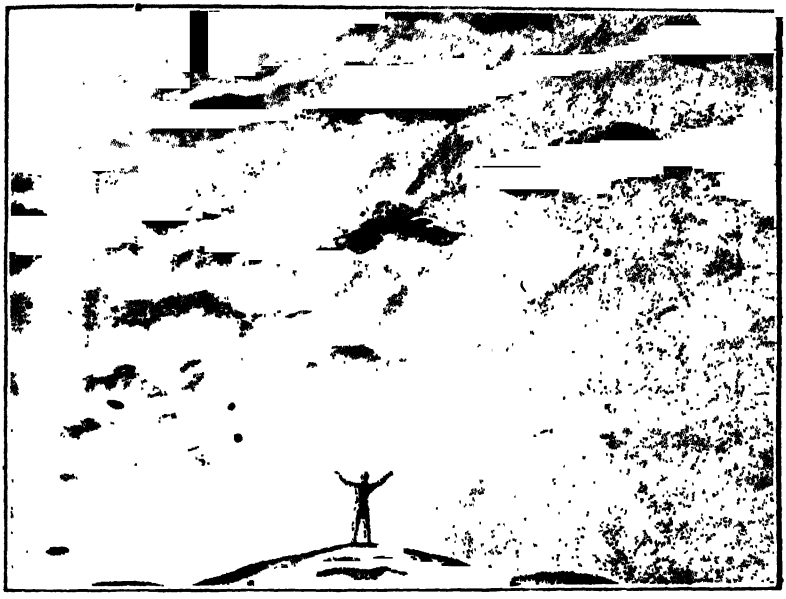
True, the expressions "everlasting fire" and "unquenchable fire"[26] are used in the Bible in describing the means of destroying the wicked. The *fire* is everlasting, but this does not mean that that which it burns lasts forever. "Our God is a consuming fire";[27] fire is co-existent with Him. The *result* of the burning, which is destruction, lasts forever; there is no resurrection from this destruction. And "unquenchable" means only that the fire cannot be *put* out till its purpose is accomplished; and not that it will not *go* out when its work is done.

The wicked go into "everlasting punish*ment*,"[28] not into everlasting punish*ing*. There is a great difference. As to "the smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and ever,"[29] we find by study that the Bible sometimes uses the word, translated *forever* in English, as not always meaning without end.[30] It also signifies "duration as long as the nature of the subject allows." In this case *forever* would mean as long as life lasts.

Even such destruction is a "strange act"[31] for a loving God, but there is no other way to rid the universe of evil. After fair warning of sin's wages, and after a liberal offer of salvation from them, evil men deliberately choose sin and death. What else can God do but give them their choice? We rejoice that soon the whole universe will be totally freed from sin, according to this prophecy: "And *every creature*

which is in *heaven*, and *on* the *earth*, and *under* the *earth*, and such as are in the *sea*, and *all* that are in them, heard I saying, *Blessing*, and *honour*, and *glory*, and *power*, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne. . .forever and ever."[32]

1 Psalms 90:10.
2 Amos 3:7.
3 Genesis 2:7.
4 Ecclesiastes 12:7.
5 Psalms 139:15, 16.
6 Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6.
7 Psalms 6:5; 115:17
8 Job 4:17.
9 I John 5:11, 12.
10 I Corinthians 15:22.
11 I Thessalonians 4:14-17; I Corinthians 15:51-55.
12 John 11:11-14.
13 Job 14:12, 14.
14 Ecclesiastes 9:6
15 Isaiah 8:19.
16 Genesis 3:4; John 8:44
17 Job 5:17
18 Revelation 20:9-15
19 Matthew 10:28.
20 Matthew 25:31, 32, 41
21 II Peter 3:7.
22 II Peter 3:13
23 Romans 6:23
24 II Thessalonians 1:9; Psalms 37:20, 10; Malachi 4:1; Obadiah 16.
25 Revelation 21:4.
26 Matthew 3:12; 25:41
27 Hebrews 12:29.
28 Matthew 25:46.
29 Revelation 14:11
30 Exodus 21:6.
31 Isaiah 28:21.
32 Revelation 5:13



Man faces the most glorious opportunity for everlasting life and happiness. Will he grasp it?

The Glorious Pathway of Truth

MANY times in His revelation to man in His Holy Book, God predicts the end of the age, accompanied by violent and death-dealing disasters of every kind, of final judgment, of punishment of evil men and reward of good men, of the setting up of Christ's kingdom in this world, which shall last forever. And always in connection with these predictions, God warns mankind of impending doom, and urges all to turn from their evil ways, and thus be eternally saved rather than eternally destroyed when Christ appears. Every man, woman, and child in the world is urged to be *prepared* for the awful crisis just ahead.[1]

Surely the reader of this book wants to know how he

can be prepared for what is coming. What steps should he take right now to escape the doom of the wicked? How should he live from day to day till the end of all things, so that he will be ready to meet and greet his Master with peace and joy? It is the purpose of this chapter to answer these questions. The very fact that the reader has followed on thus far in this book proves that he is a seeker for truth. And God will never disappoint such. "Seek, and ye shall find,"[2] He says.

The Way to Find God

First, find a quiet spot where you will be undisturbed, and there kneel with bowed head and in simple faith ask God to lead you into all truth, like a child asking food from its parents. Faith is believing in God, that He loves you with a greater love than you have ever felt, and that He will do everything for your best good. Try to approach God with a mind unbiased by past beliefs and doubts, and resolve to know and believe only that which God reveals to you. "Ask, and ye shall receive."

You will not be able to see God, nor sense His presence with any of your senses. He can be approached only by faith. "He that cometh to God must believe."[3] But if you keep an open mind, and persist in seeking Him, you will be conscious of His presence, and will know that He is guiding.

There are three ways through which God reveals Himself and His truth to man: by direct revelation, as when speaking or giving visions to His prophets;[4] through nature as when He impresses us with His power and wisdom by the marvels of animal and plant life, and by the majesty of trees, mountains, oceans, and stars; and through His Book, the Holy Bible, which is an inspired record of His

messages to men, of His dealings with men in the past, and of His prophecies concerning the future.

Few men can be mouthpieces, or prophets, of God; but all men by reading the Bible may know what God has revealed to the prophets. Nature's mirror of God has been besmirched by the curse of sin, and sin has also dulled man's perceptions so that he cannot read God in nature as he should. This is proved by the fact that many scientists are not lead to God by the study of nature, but become atheists. By far the best way for man in his present condition to find God and truth is to study and believe His Holy Scriptures. The Bible is translated into practically all languages, is not too difficult to understand, and contains figurative language that may be comprehended by all peoples, whatever their state of civilization.

Have Faith in the Book

Taking, then, the Bible as the word of God to man and man's guide along the pathway of truth, pin your faith to this Book, and "search the Scriptures."[5] You will find that, as a nucleus, it contains the law of God (given on the next page), which is the constitutional foundation of His government; also the history of men and nations who have obeyed or disobeyed this law, and the result to them; and, best of all, the story of the Son of God, who came to save man from the penalty for disobeying this law.

The transgression of this law is called sin.[6] And God hates sin, for it has brought pain and woe and death and all evil to this world of men. And if you love God and desire truth, you also will learn to hate sin and to want to put it out of your life. A true view of a loving and righteous God and of your own sinful heart, which you will get

THE LAW OF GOD

I

Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

II

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My commandments.

III

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.

IV

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man servant, nor thy maid servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.

V

Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

VI

Thou shalt not kill

VII

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

VIII

Thou shalt not steal

IX

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

X

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his man servant, nor his maid servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbour's.

if you study the Holy Bible, will impel you to long for freedom from sin and to be like God.

God and truth make no provision for the breaking of His law to be just as good as the keeping of His law. Sin is sin, and there is a sharp distinction between sin and righteousness. God teaches us that certain attitudes and actions are right, and their opposites are wrong, and both wrong and right cannot exist together in harmony. There is a widespread belief today, called liberalism or tolerance, which holds with regard to religion and morals that one doctrine or standard, though directly contrary to another, is just as good, and is acceptable to God. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Falsehood cannot possibly be as good as truth. Right is right for all peoples, in all ages, in every clime, under whatever circumstances; and the standard of right for all is set by the law of God, and the Holy Bible as its complement.[7] Following this line is the only way mankind can arrive at truth and be saved from error and its dire consequences. There is a wide variety in truth, but it all harmonizes, whereas truth and error always are in discord.

Conviction of Sin

When you look into God's holy law, you will see that it condemns some things you are doing. It may be that you are deceiving or dishonouring your parents, or working on the Sabbath, or coveting your neighbour's goods, or hating your brother. You are thus convinced and convicted that you are a sinner, are out of harmony with God and truth. And if you are a conscientious truth-seeker, you are made sorry that you are a sinner, and you want to put these sins out of your life.

When thus convicted of sin, ask God to forgive you

for breaking His law, and implore Him to take all sin out of your heart. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Then believe that He takes the sin away; and He does. You are free from sin, and no longer a sinner. Now the law commends you, and you have a strong desire to keep it.

Christ Saves From Sin

You really deserve to be destroyed for breaking God's law, just as a man who takes another man's life deserves to have his own life taken. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die."[9] But God forgives you your sin, and saves you from death, by virtue of the fact that Christ the sinless One died for your sins. He paid the penalty, and it is not necessary for you to pay it also.[10] This is a wonderful and glorious truth, a saving truth.

No matter how great a sinner you have been, Christ died for you.[11] No one can sink so low in degradation that Christ's saving power cannot reach him. If you will yield yourself to Him, yours will be a transformed life.[12] You will *know* that you have the victory over sin, through His help. It is the happiest moment of your life.

Endeavour to keep from sinning by keeping your will against it, at the same time asking for God's help to overcome it. And if then you break His law because of weakness or ignorance or even momentary rebellion, as soon as you are conscious of the transgression, contritely ask for forgiveness again, and believe you are forgiven. A continual following of this course results in your sinning less and less, and keeping the law more and more. Thus a habit of right-doing is formed, which ensures greater ease in maintaining the righteous life. But as long as life lasts,

you are not free from the possibility of sinning. It will always be necessary for you to depend upon Christ for help, and He is always so willing to give it.[13]

You are not counted as a sinner by God if you ask forgiveness and believe you have it, as soon as you are aware of sin committed. You must be careful, however, not to presume upon God's mercy and forgiveness. That is, you must not plan or will to sin with the expectation of enjoying it and also of enjoying forgiveness after you have passed through it. Such presumption is one of the worst sins in God's sight, and it endangers one's whole experience with Him. Keep the will ever against sin, and soon the whole being, mind and body, will support the will against it.

The greatest woe that can ever come to man is the guilty feeling which comes with sinning. Physical pain is light in comparison to it. On the other hand, the greatest joy which it is the lot of human beings to experience is that which accompanies the removal of guilt from the life by the forgiveness of God through the merits of Christ's sacrifice for us. No one can know real happiness until he has been forgiven of his sins.[14]

Maintain the Experience

There are three practices to observe every day if you would win in the war against sin in your life; and they are illustrated in three necessary functions of your physical body. First, you should read and meditate upon the Holy Scriptures every day. There is something about Bible reading and study which strengthens the will to do right, cultivates a hunger and thirst for righteousness, imparts wisdom to choose the right way, and courage to act on your convictions.[15] It is to the soul as food and drink are to the

body, and is just as necessary to the building of a good and strong character as food is to the building of the body.[16]

Second, you should often pray alone with God.[17] The Bible is God speaking to you. Prayer is you speaking to God. Thus you hold a conversation, as friend talking with friend. Make friends with God; and do not be afraid of Him. The only thing you need to fear is to disobey Him. He is the best Friend you can ever have. It is not necessary for you to pray aloud; for God knows what is in your heart and mind. And you may pray anywhere; for it is well to be always in a prayer attitude of mind. While it is wise to have special times and places when you can seek God alone, yet prayer need not keep you from your daily duties. A prayer may be sent up to Him under any circumstances. Prayer is the breathing of the soul, and you can no more live the true life without it than you can keep alive without breathing.

In prayer, first thank God for all His goodness and blessings, naming as many of them as you can recall; especially remember to thank Him for forgiveness of your sins, which is the greatest gift He has bestowed upon you. Then ask Him for forgiveness of any sins which you have committed since last you prayed, stating definitely what sins they are. Tell Him how much you love Him and desire to serve Him. Finally ask Him for any gifts and blessings that you feel in need of, remembering to request that His will for your best good be done, in case you ask for something which He in His love and wisdom sees is not good for you. If you ask for something He has promised you in the Bible, or according to His will for His children, He will always grant it. Sometimes, however, you may have to wait a while for the answer. You may understand God's dealings with you from the dealings of a parent with a little child.

Third, you should do something for God every day. He does not need your help, in the sense that He could not get along without it. But for your own good you need to help Him in His work. It is like exercise to the body. The muscles of the body become weaker and weaker, and finally the body dies, if it is not exercised. So with the spiritual life. You help God by doing His work in the world.[18] And His work is the saving of other souls as He saved you. Some saved human beings worked for your salvation from sin—wrote and printed and distributed the Bible and other good books, came from a far country perhaps at great sacrifice and expense to tell you the good news of salvation, did kindly deeds of helping the poor, healing the sick, encouraging the down-hearted—and you, in turn, in a spirit of thankfulness for all you have received at the hands of others, should minister to those who know not God.

While Bible study, prayer, and work for others are all essential to the happy treading of the path of truth and the entrance into God's kingdom, they are not to be thought of as duties so much as of privileges. The saved person *wants* to do them, and so they are easy to do, no matter how much sacrifice they may require. It is a pleasure to converse with and work for those we love. And supreme joy is the incentive of all we do for the Master, even as it was the incentive for Him to leave His home in heaven and come down to this benighted earth and live and suffer and die that you and I might be saved from sin and eternal death.

1 Matthew 24:42-44.
2 Matthew 7:7.
3 Hebrews 11:6.
4 Numbers 12:6.
5 John 5:39.
6 I John 3:4.
7 Psalms 119:142.
8 I John 1:9.
9 Ezekiel 18:4
10 Acts 5:30, 31.
11 Romans 5:6.
12 Romans 12:2.
13 Hebrews 7:25.
14 Romans 7:24, 25.
15 Psalms 119:105.
16 Job 23:12.
17 Matthew 6:6; Luke 18:1.
18 Matthew 28:19, 20



At the cross roads—There is a way that leads to life and happiness.



N. G. Shah

Vegetables and fruits form a natural and healthful diet for man.

The Way to Peace

THE multiplied inventions and discoveries of our modern world have amazed and startled the average man. They have jostled him out of his former peace, quiet, and contentment. Swift travel, and the ease with which he gets news from all over the world, have increased his knowledge—and his worries. Where present-day progress moves with giant strides, an unnatural excitement prevails. Nerves are on edge, and tempers are uncontrolled. Bewilderment over unsolved problems of the present, and fear of future catastrophe, have undermined the health of millions who otherwise would be well and strong. For the mind and the emotions have a potent influence over the body.

Men of today must face facts; and it is impossible for them to blind themselves to the perilous times in which we



K. Muthuramalingam

A cheery countenance expresses contentment.

live. Yet the dangers which dog their footsteps so prey upon their minds that they are unfitted to cope with the realities of woe that are soon to burst upon the world and are already bursting in some places. The near future demands a stout heart reinforced by a sound mind in a sound body. Weaklings cannot stand in the times ahead.

Then, too, our generation has been made soft in character and physique by conveniences for easy living that have been thrust upon it. Machines and cheap travel facilities have largely removed the necessity for the hard work of days gone by. Finding it unnecessary to put forth the same effort as before to earn a livelihood, the people of today tend to laziness, a love of pleasure, and a craving for entertainment. Such a life greatly weakens health, morals, and morale.

The public is not alert to its danger. It does not want to hear anything which disturbs its ease. The prophet of old said of it: "The time will come when people will decline to be taught sound doctrine and will accumulate teachers to suit themselves and tickle their own fancies; they will give up listening to the Truth and turn to myths."[1]

The Need of Health

The "Truth" is, that never before today have men and women so much needed sane minds and healthy bodies to meet adequately the issues of life. Happily, in spite of the fact that within them and all about them are conditions conducive to ill-health, in the cases of most sick people good health can be attained and maintained. God desires His children to be in health. "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."[2]

Riches are not necessary to health, neither will money buy it. Men often spend their health to get wealthy, and then spend their wealth trying to get healthy. The simple, inexpensive means to health are within the reach of all who want it so much that they are willing to make a personal sacrifice for it. True, many have gone so far in ill health that it is impossible for them to recover, short of a miracle being performed: but even for them there is hope of a partial restoration.

First, A Clear Conscience

The first step toward health is all-important. Doctors have discovered that much chronic disease has been started and kept going by an abnormal state of mind in the patient. A depressed and discouraged and worried mind brings about a depression of all the vital functions of the body. Bodily activities are slowed up, including elimination of poisons, and these accumulated poisons react upon the mind, causing more depression and forming a vicious circle which is very hard to break.

Only God, with the co-operation of the human will determined to reform, can clear a depressed mind. The mental weight may be caused by a feeling of guiltiness because of wrong-doing. Sin is the heaviest load the soul has to bear. No slavery is worse than the bondage of evil. The remedy is to ask the forgiveness of God, and of any fellow-being who may be involved, to believe that the fault is forgiven, and then to forget it. This is to be done in the name of Jesus, who gives all men this welcome invitation, "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. . . . Ye shall find rest unto your *souls*."[3] Soul rest, a conscience void of offence toward God or man, brings freedom and joy. The best "mind

cure" is a mind freed from sin and a heart full of thankfulness to God for all His benefits, "who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases."[4]

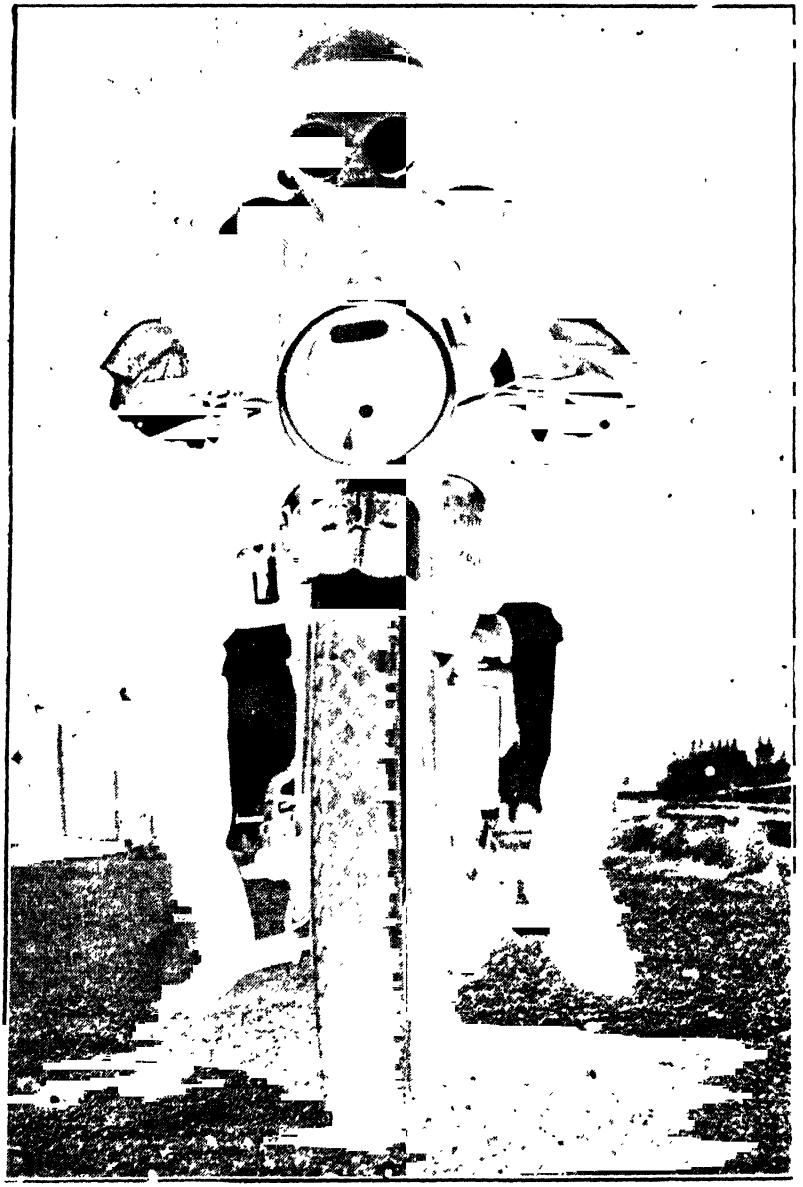
Thought Control

Determine to do right and follow the path of truth and honesty. Work hard at the task which comes to hand, and cast care away. Don't worry; for worry is always about that which *may* come—and it may *not* come. But trust God for wisdom, strength, and fortitude to meet it bravely if it does come, "casting all your care upon Him; for He careth [does your caring] for you."[5]

Learn to control the thoughts. Banish from the mind thoughts of fear, hatred, anger, envy, selfishness, and foolishness. Encourage thoughts of love, hope, faith, courage, happiness, gentleness, and thoughtfulness for the good of others.[6]

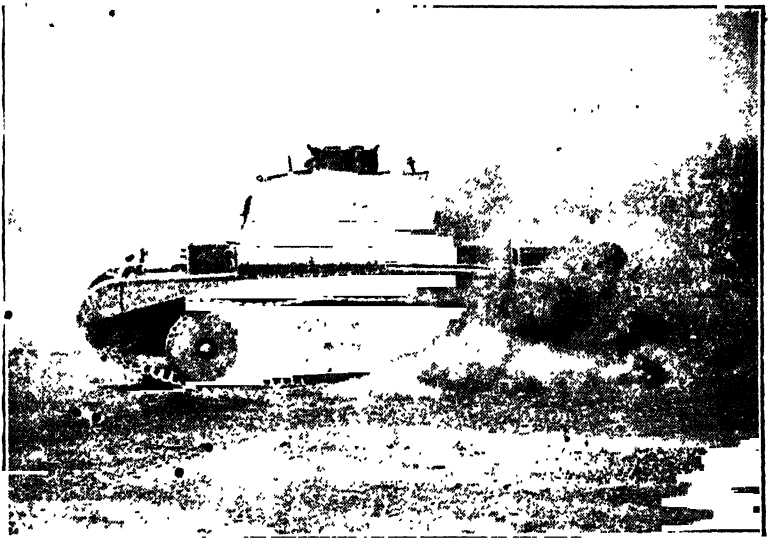
A secret of good health is *brain activity.* There is electric power in the brain which invigorates the whole body and is an important factor in resisting disease. At whatever stage of life, never let the mind get dull and sleepy: but pursue some systematic course of study or reading which will stimulate creative thought. Don't just exist; think and live. At regular periods give the mind change and relaxation, to prevent brain fag and unprofitable mind-wandering. Find mental refreshment by doing some good for both friends and enemies every day. Let God's love enter the life, and discontents, restlessness, and frets will cease, while satisfying joys will invigorate the mind and energize the body.[7]

1 II Timothy 4:3, 4, Moffatt's translation.
2 III John 2.
3 Matthew 11:28-30.
4 Psalms 103:3.
5 I Peter 5:7.
6 Philippians 4:8.
7 Philippians 4:7.



Press Photo Agent

One of the "speed demons" of modern warfare; he looks the part.



Western News Photo

The terrible tank, that has turned war into an inferno of terror and slaughter.

The Closing Scenes of This World's History

THE curtain is about to be rung up for the last act in the great drama of sinful human history, and it is natural for the mind to wonder what the final scenes will be. Basing our faith on Bible prophecies which so far have never failed of fulfilment, we place just as full faith in those which are yet to be fulfilled. They are the only sure guide for the future.

The prophetic interpretations of this book have demonstrated that we are living at a time immediately preceding the second appearance of the Son of God on this earth. From the present onward, the next events may be portrayed in their order, just as the divine prophecy unfolds them.

We may expect wars to increase in number and violence to the very end. Here is God's preview of the world's military situation just prior to the coming of Christ: "Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves. . . . and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord. . . . Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision."[1]

It may be seen that the time for the fulfilment of this prediction of war preparation and international conflict is just before the "harvest." And, according to Christ, "The harvest is the end of the world."[2] This graphic picture of widespread wars suits the actualities of war now, as the reading of any day's news will show. "The nations were angry,"[3] is an expression used by another prophet when describing the events leading up to the kingdoms of this world becoming the kingdom of our Lord. Were they ever more angry than in these times?

Fond Hopes of Peace

Strangely, this age of terrific wars is also a time for much talk of peace. Never before were there so many peace societies, so many fond plans for a warless world, so much explanation of this or that war as a "war to end war." This also was divinely forecast. "Many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the

Lord from Jerusalem. And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."[4]

Such is the *hope* of "many people"; but God said there would be war. And there *is* war. While many high-minded educators, legislators, and statesmen have laboured untiringly for peace, the nations have rushed madly into wars that beggar description for their horrors. Thus divine prophecy is again vindicated. "When they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them."[5]

Speaking of this same time, another ancient prophet declared: "My anguish, my anguish! I am pained at my very heart; my heart is disquieted in me; I cannot hold my peace; because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."[6] It is not that God decrees war, but He warns men through His prophets that war is inevitable when the nations prepare for it. And the culmination of all war is to come at the end of the age.

The Close of Probation

Chapter seven of this book dealt with a prophecy of the judgment of men near the end of the world. That tribunal was to sit in heaven, beginning in the year 1844, and was to investigate searchingly the cases of every man and woman and child who ever lived. Starting with Adam and Eve, it tries the dead first, and finishes with the living who are now on the stage of action. There is no appeal from its decisions; for, as each case is tried, judgment for eternal life or eternal death is pronounced finally.

We have no definite means of knowing when this judg-



Eastern News Photo

Unfortunately, war calls for the sacrifice of the flower of young manhood

ment work will be finished and the last man's case decided. But, by all the signs, that time is very near even now. At the close of the judgment, which is the close of probation for man, this dictum will be spoken in heaven: "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still."[7]

THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES

As soon as the judgment is over, the Spirit of God is withdrawn from the earth and ceases forever to try to win mankind to allegiance to God. There is no more mercy for sinners, no more opportunity to repent and be saved. This awful event is indicated on earth by a breaking loose of all the powers of evil, now no longer restrained. Crime and violence are rampant. The seven last plagues are poured out upon the earth as a result and culmination of six millenniums of evil. The righteous wrath of God is visited upon wicked men, and it is unmixed with love and mercy.

The prophet paints the picture thus: "I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God." "I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth."[8]

The first plague will be a grievous sore that will afflict men. The second will make the water of the seas as poisonous as the blood of a dead man, and every living thing in the waters will die. The third will do the same to the rivers and fountains of waters. The fourth will cause the sun to scorch men with fire. The fifth will bring a great darkness in a part of the earth. The sixth will be

marked by the battle of Armageddon (of which more hereafter). The seventh plague will be the greatest and most harassing of all, and will be characterized by thunders and lightnings, and a "great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great." "And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent" [about fifty-seven pounds]."

The Battle of Armageddon

The unerring Word of Scripture says of the battle of Armageddon: "They are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.....And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."[10]

The definition of the word Armageddon is given by an authority. "This name is given to the great plain of central Palestine which extends from the Mediterranean to the Jordan, separating the mountain ranges of Carmel and Samaria from those of Galilee.....It is the ancient plain of Megiddo, the Armageddon of Revelation 16:16."[11] This plain is about seventy miles northwest of Jerusalem.

"Megiddo is the military key of Syria. It commanded at once the highway northward to Phoenicia and Coele-Syria and the road across Galilee to Damascus and the valley of the Euphrates.....The vale of Kishon and the region of Megiddo were inevitable battlefields. Through all history they retained that qualification; there many of the great contests of southeastern Asia have been decided."[12]

From time immemorial Palestine has been the geo-

graphical, political, and religious centre of the world. *Geographically*, the continents of Europe and North America radiate from it in one direction, Asia and Australia in another, and Africa and South America in another. The Mediterranean Sea, the Aegean Sea, the Black Sea, and the Red Sea, all point from different directions to this focal spot in the "Middle East." Politically, the four great universal empires of ancient times were able to dominate the then-known world only as they were in control of this strategic centre. And one needs only to watch the trend of world events and wars today to see that Palestine is destined to loom large in any political mastery of Europe, Asia, and Africa, and even of regions more outlying. *Religiously*, the Jewish, Islamic, and Christian faiths had their origin in this region.

"It would be a mistake to suppose that the importance of Jerusalem is solely due to the religious sentiment which attaches to it, for it must be remembered that Palestine, of which Jerusalem is the capital, is the highway from Africa and Asia into Europe. This is why Palestine has been such a battlefield throughout the ages. Its possession has been coveted by every empire that has existed."[13]

Therefore, watch Palestine as a pivotal point in coming international events. History, prophecy, and political and military strategy alike designate it as a vital centre.

Satan Behind the Scene

Significantly, political pundits have often declared that they cannot understand why statesmen of all countries assert their desire for peace and endeavour to make peace, yet prepare for war like mad, and rush precipitately into international strife as if they could not help themselves. Our prophecy reveals that this strange political phenomenon

is caused by the spirits of demons working upon the minds of world leaders. And we have heard that some leaders consult astrologers, fortune tellers, and spirit mediums.[14]

The Prince of Peace Intervenes

Destiny singles out Palestine as the centre of world strife in the immediate future. The Middle East holds the attention of all peoples today. Ere long the final sanguinary battle will be fought in frightfulness on the plain of Megiddo. But it can no more than begin when the Prince of Peace will appear there with the armies of heaven, to bring to an end forever the strife of nations, and to deliver His faithful believers from earthly turmoil and suffering.

The part which Christ will have in Armageddon, and the closing scenes of that great battle which will end all battles, are described by the Revelator: "I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war.....And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God..... And the remnant were slain with the sword of Him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of His mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh."[15]

The Righteous Saved

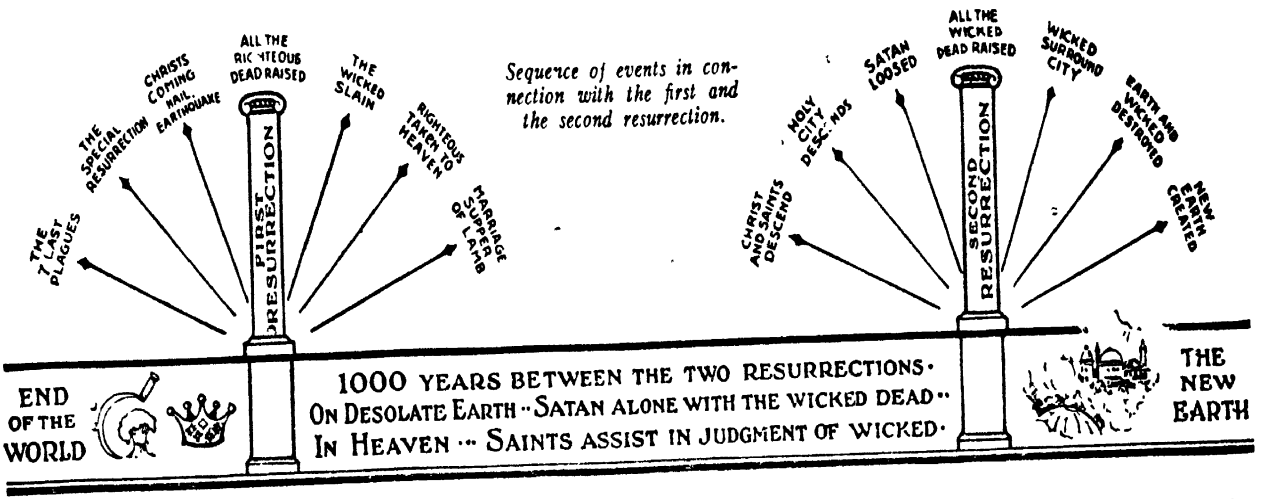
Out of this welter of Armageddon, Christ will save His true followers; and, together with the righteous dead of all ages, who are raised from their graves at this time,

they are caught up to meet their Saviour in the air, and to go back with Him to heaven. "He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."[16] "The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."[17]

With the wicked all destroyed by Armageddon, and also by the terrible shaking and havoc that follows the pouring out of the seven plagues, and with the righteous all taken to heaven by Christ, the earth is left in a desolate condition as a result of the violence of the last days. Jeremiah the prophet describes it: "I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light.....There was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled.....The fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the Lord, and by His fierce anger."[18]

These circumstances form a figurative chain which binds Satan and his wicked angels to live alone in the forsaken earth, for they have no one upon whom to work with their temptations and deceptions. This lasts for a thousand years. "I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on....Satan, and bound him a thousand years,....that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled."[19]

This thousand-year period is the millennium often



A pictorial diagram showing the momentous events clustering around both the beginning and the end of that anticipated period of a thousand years, called the "millennium." We are living at the left of the picture, and just before us is the pouring out of the seven last plagues, the first touches of some of which we are already beginning to witness in the earth. In the succession of events we can see what is coming to mankind for over a thousand years in the future. It is not a pleasant picture to contemplate, but the final end is most glorious and supremely satisfactory to those who reach it. And all who live may reach it, if they will.

referred to by Christians. Many think that it is a time of perfect peace and righteousness here on earth, with Christ present in person and ruling over all. But the Bible teaches that it is a time of waste and desolation on the earth. In heaven, however, the righteous have a part in judging the devil, his angels, and all wicked men. They decide the degree of punishment which each shall receive, according to his deserts. "Judgment was given to the saints of the Most High."[20] "Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? Know ye not that we shall judge angels?"[21]

The beginning of the millennium will be marked by the death of the wicked and the resurrection and ascending to heaven of the righteous. The end of the millennium will be marked by the resurrection of the wicked and the descending from heaven of the righteous. "The rest of the dead [beside the righteous] lived not again until the thousand years were finished." Consequently, with someone to work upon, Satan and his demons are loosed from their chain of loneliness. "After that [the thousand years] he must be loosed a little season."[22]

The great and glorious city of the new Jerusalem, which is to be the capital of the earth when it is made new, descends from heaven, together with all the saints. They had inherited this city, according to the promise made to them by Christ when He was on earth the first time: "In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."[23] "I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven."[24]

The Final Scene of Evil

As, after the last act of a play, all the actors who have participated in it sometimes appear together before the audience, so in the last scene of the tragedy of a sinful world, all who have ever lived on earth will appear together before the universe. On the one side will be the hosts of the people of God, with Christ at their head, within the walls of the new Jerusalem. On the other side will be the billions upon billions of the wicked of all history, with Satan and his angels for their leaders. Satan will deceive them into believing that with their great numbers and might they can capture the city, annihilate Christ and the righteous, and forever possess the whole earth for themselves. They will make the attempt, but will meet with an unexpected and awful defeat.

"When the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them."[25]

The Earth Restored

The fire which devours the wicked, who sealed their doom in the threat to the saints of God, continues to burn till it has utterly destroyed Satan and his demons, sin, and sinners, and all the results of sin, the world's curse. Evil angels and men are not tortured in the fire forever, but are annihilated in a short time. The devil "shall be as though he had not been." "Never shalt thou be any more," is God's word concerning him.[26]

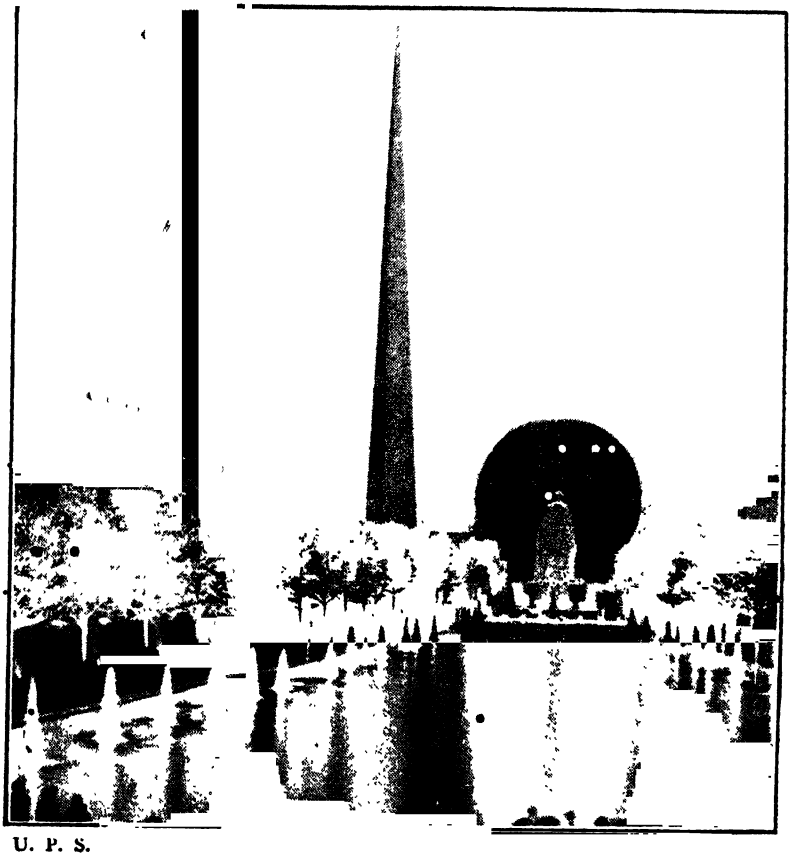
From the materials thus purified by fire, the Creator forms a new earth where His chosen ones will live throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity. "Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."[27]

At last the character of God is vindicated, His law established without a question, and His universe forever free from sin. "Affliction shall not rise up the second time."[28] "And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb [Christ] forever and ever."[29]

1 Joel 3:9-11, 13, 14.
2 Matthew 13:39.
3 Revelation 11:18.
4 Isaiah 2:3, 4.
5 I Thessalonians 5:3.
6 Jeremiah 4:19, A. R. V.
7 Revelation 22:11.
8 Revelation 15:1; 16:1.
9 Revelation 16.
10 Revelation 16:14, 16.
11 Abbott's "Dictionary of Religious Knowledge."
12 "Pre-Biblical Syria and Palestine," Cormack.
13 British "Review of Reviews," January, 1918.
14 Revelation 16:13, 14.
15 Revelation 19:11-21.
16 Matthew 24:31.
17 I Thessalonians 4:16, 17.
18 Jeremiah 4:23-26.
19 Revelation 20:1-3
20 Daniel 7:22.
21 I Corinthians 6:1-3.
22 Revelation 20:5, 3.
23 John 14:2, 3.
24 Revelation 21:2.
25 Revelation 20:7-9.
26 Ezekiel 28:19.
27 II Peter 3:12, 13.
28 Nahum 1:9
29 Revelation 5:13.



They will not hurt nor destroy in the beautiful and sinless and deathless New Earth..



U. P. S.

A night scene at an American "World's Fair." Man can produce some startlingly beautiful effects on this earth, but they will be shabby when contrasted with the magnificent perfection of the world to come.

Life and Joy Forevermore

AGAIN and again God nas promised in His Word that He will make a new earth. He will keep that promise. John the prophet saw in vision "a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea."[1]

This earth made new is to be the eternal home of the

righteous people of the Book. "The meek shall inherit the earth."[2] Thus God's original purpose in creating the earth will be at last fulfilled. "He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited."[3] "The righteous shall inherit the land....when the wicked are cut off."[4]

Supernal Joys

In the opinion of many longing souls, it is too good to be true that this blighted old earth will ever be the abode of supremely happy people, who will have no fear, no sickness, no pain, no poverty, no death. But "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him."[5] In other words, let the thrilled imagination of the most idealistic dreamer soar to the utmost limits of its fancy as it pictures all that is good and beautiful and supremely satisfying; and then it only will have *begun* to realize the supernal rewards which await the redeemed.

"The half has never yet been told." But even that which has been told far surpasses the glories of our fondest dreams. Read the thirty-fifth chapter of the book of the prophet Isaiah, and the last two chapters of the same book, and of the book of Revelation, and see visions of bliss. A renewed world floats in space, rotating and revolving in perfect harmony with other worlds, and kept true to its course by the Almighty, who redeemed it and re-created it for His good pleasure. An equable climate pervades its whole area, tempered by sunshine, cloud, and breeze. There are no jagged mountains, for the bones of the earth are beautifully covered and moulded with flesh of fertile soil. There are no burning deserts, no pestilential swamps, no bad lands, no frigid and torrid zones; not the faintest reminder of the curse that sin had brought.



P T. U. Raghaven

In the most inviting scenery of our country there is much to be desired; but in the beyond there will be nothing lacking to satisfy the eye.

Peopled to the limit of comfort and convenience, the new earth will shower blessings on its inhabitants. Not a sin or a desire to sin ever creeps in. Every soul will be a willing subject of the great King, yet everyone will himself be a king, because he will rule himself. And because there will be no sin, nor any of sin's malign results will be apparent. No sense of guilt, no worry, no remorse; no tears, no poison, no virulent germs; and no one will ever be caused to say, "I am sick."[6] No cages, no prisons, no shackles, no walls but with open doors. No police; no soldiers; no guns; no battleships, torpedoes, bombs, poison gases; for wars shall "cease unto the end of the earth."[7]

No asylums, no hospitals, no funerals, no graveyards. No murders, no thefts, no suicides; no debts, no mortgages, no poverty, no hunger and cold. To name the woes that plague us now is only to enhance the prospect of the joys of the home over there.

No toil and drudgery and slavery there, only work that is pleasure. We shall build houses and live in them, plant trees and eat their fruit. And children will be there, boys and girls playing in the streets and fields. There will be animals and insects in infinite variety, yet not one will hurt or destroy another. No withering tree or fading blossom; every flower an ornament, every vegetable and fruit a food.

The Glorious Capital City

One city will be there, to accommodate the world's inhabitants as they come up often to worship God, who smiles upon all in love. But what a city! It lies four-square, three hundred and seventy-five miles on each side, and surrounded by high walls of crystal-clear jasper stone. And this metropolis rests upon a foundation of precious stones, twelve in all, each named for an apostle of Jesus; for this is a "city which hath foundations,"[8] and is builded as it were on the righteous characters developed by Peter and James and John and Thomas and the others, with Christ as the cornerstone. Diamonds, emeralds, jades, rubies, sapphires, reflect multi-coloured rays—the stained glass windows of heaven.

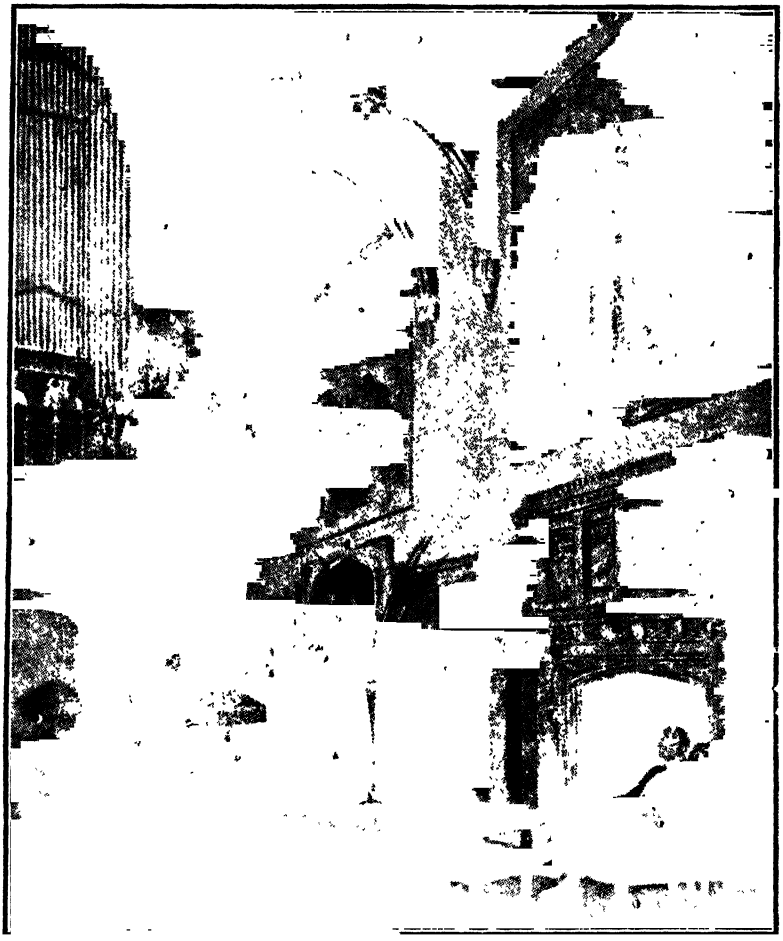
This new Jerusalem has twelve openings through its towering walls, three on each side of the city, and twelve gates of solid pearl swing wide to welcome the righteous. In the centre of the great city is the glistening throne of God; and, gushing from beneath the throne, rises the river

of life, which flows forth to give life to all the earth. On both sides of the river, and arching over it, is the tree of life. This prolific tree bears twelve kinds of fruit, and each ripens every month. There is no night in the city, for God's glory is the constant light of it.

These Delights Are Real

All these delightsome rewards are not figments of the imagination, but their reality and tangibility have actually been promised and revealed in the Book. When God has told us all this, and much more, of the satisfactions of the future world, He challenges our imaginations also to conceive of anything good and desirable that He has not planned for us. Heaven and earth will satisfy every pure desire, no matter how varied, else they would not be worthy of our aspirations. There the discoverer will have eternity and the infinitude of the universe in which to find new worlds and peoples, for the saved will not be confined to earth as now. The chemist will delve with complete abandon into the mysteries of solids, fluids, and gases, developing novel substances never before visioned in human minds. The astronomer may travel everywhere the range of his telescope reaches. The musician will revel in symphonies such as the sweetest earthly harp has never produced. The philosopher will thrill in the study of the divine mind. The agriculturists, honourably discharged from the war with adverse seasons, pests, weeds, and sterile soils, "shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain." The teachers may plumb sources of wisdom hitherto undreamed, and pass on to eager students a boundless store of knowledge.

Spurred on by the marvellous discoveries and inventions in all realms of knowledge in our day, science is ever



Nothing that money can buy is withheld from the rich man of today, but Paradise will provide even the poorest with those supernal joys that money cannot buy here.

fond of announcing something unexpectedly startling. The same stirring of heart and mind that comes with fresh "finds" of science now, will contribute to make never-ending life in the new earth state well worth living. We have come

up through artificial light by candle, by oil, by gas, by electricity, by incandescence; in the beyond we shall advance to greater and ever greater surprises as to the sources and possibilities of light. We have progressed in transportation facilities from walking and carrying and dragging, to vehicles drawn by bullock and horse and steam and electric power; then to flying by aeroplane and rocket; but in the world made new we shall push on to more astonishing means of locomotion, with the speed of lightning and the ease of standing still. We have communicated by voice, by signs, by letters, by signals, by telegraph, by telephone, by wireless, by motion picture, by teletype and television; and what next, and next, and next? Eternity and the new earth will answer!

Nothing Lacking

In that fair land, all will have plenty to eat. "I will abundantly bless her provision: I will satisfy her poor with bread."[10]

With marvellously wrought labour-saving implements, harvests will be gathered the year through, with no drought or frost to interfere. "Threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely."[11] "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed."[12]

Fear will be a sensation of the past. "I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods."[13]

There will be nothing lacking to satisfy the longing of

every heart. "In Thy presence is fulness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."[14]

The Greatest Reward of All

But let no yearning heart make the mistake of thinking that sense satisfactions, intellectual thrills, and social joys will be the only, or even the chief, rewards of the saved in the new earth. The inestimable privilege of looking into the face of Jesus, the One who by His sacrificial life and awful death has made all this happiness possible, will surpass every other reward. Communion with God, the Father, who loved us so much that He gave us His only begotten Son; and with the Holy Spirit, who taught us all things and comforted us in distress, will provide contacts affording ineffable peace. Throughout the ceaseless ages man will dwell in the sunshine of divine approval and achieve wider and deeper and higher conceptions of the love that created us and sacrificed heaven's priceless treasure to redeem us from everlasting death.

To hold forth a hope and to awaken an anticipation of a Paradise like this is only to tantalize, unless there is a wide opportunity for everyone and anyone to reach it at last. That opportunity is yours, dear reader. "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely,"[15] is the parting word of God's message to all mankind. You who are bitterly disillusioned by the misfortunes life has dealt you; who have lost faith in man and God; you who see absolutely no present prospect for a happy future—to you particularly that "whosoever" reaches its mighty arm of love and sympathy and understanding. You cannot be too high or too low or too distant to come. "He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them."[16]

COME! COME! COME!

He appeals to our need. "Let us therefore *come* boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."[17] Have men, money, governments, Utopian schemes, friends, and even our own hearts, all failed us? Do poverty, sickness, disgrace, and hopelessness face us? Are we in dire need? Then let us come to Him.

He appeals to our weariness of life. "*Come* unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."[18] He appeals to your thirst for all that is good and high and great. "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink."[19]

And it is so easy to come, so easy that it seems unbelievable; consequently, many make it hard. He does not require us to come good, or clean, or great, or wise, but just as we are—sinful, filthy, humbled, or ignorant, no matter what. He alone can cleanse us, and He wants to do it.

What are we to do? Nothing, so far as commending ourselves to Him is concerned. Simply come; ask Him in simple prayer for forgiveness and saving; believe with childlike simplicity that we have that for which we have prayed; and it is ours. That is all. Leave everything else with God.

Then, "The kingdom of God is within you,"[20] and a real Paradise is the certain fulfilment of a divine promise.

1 Revelation 21:1.
2 Psalms 37:11.
3 Isaiah 45:18.
4 Psalms 37:29, 34.
5 I Corinthians 2:9.
6 Isaiah 33:24.
7 Psalms 46:9.
8 Hebrews 11:10.
9 Isaiah 65:22, 23.
10 Psalms 139:15.
11 Leviticus 26:5.
12 Amos 9:13.
13 Ezekiel 34:25.
14 Psalms 16:11.
15 Revelation 22:17
16 Hebrews 4:25.
17 Hebrews 4:16.
18 Matthew 11:28.
19 John 7:37.
20 Luke 17:21.